

RECREATION

— December 1936 —

Mass Hikes

By Eugene L. Roberts

A Christmas Miracle

By A. D. Zanzig

Why Not Puppets in the Home?

By Kate C. Hall

New Year's Day Around the World

When Winter Dons Her Mantle White

By Edward Brooks Ballard

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Enriched Living Through Music

ALL REAL MUSIC, no matter how advanced, is rooted in impulses that are with some degree of force astir in every person: impulses to express one's feelings, to enjoy certain kinds of sounds and rhythms, to find or create beauty, live more fully, more intensely, feel qualities and powers in oneself that are estimable and expansible, to have fun, or to attain a full sense of fellowship with people around one or with distant or imagined people.

Such impulses are the essential stuff of music, though not of music alone. They are the inward grace of which the music is an outward sign giving lovable form, fulfillment and nurture to what might otherwise be inarticulate and never fully realized.

The better we sing, play or dance, or the better and more appropriable to us is the music we listen to, the more satisfying and enriching is the whole experience likely to be. But it will be so only if what we do is better in our own judgment, and continues to be a free and genuine expression of our own selves, a genuine outward sign of an inward grace.

In the scale of human values and even in that of purely artistic values, the quality of that grace, that inner vitality, and the degree to which it pervades the life of the individual are of far greater importance than the quality, judged by technical standards, of its outward sign. It is easily impoverished or lost under the external pressures and the artifices of the usual preparing to "put on" a concert or of acquiring a technique, or under the mainly muscular activity of much of what is called community singing.

But it is gained in fullest measure by our discovery in the music of qualities that make it most satisfying and lovable, and that lure us into other music still more satisfying and lovable, and into striving toward better performance in order to realize those qualities more fully.

A. D. ZANZIG.

December



Courtesy Salt Lake City Department of Parks and Public Property

Photo by Dean G...

How Effective Is Our Education for

Leisure?

By

HEDLEY S. DIMOCK

George Williams College
Chicago, Illinois

This thought-provoking article is reprinted by courtesy of *Character*. The criteria presented are intended, Dr. Dimock states, merely as a starting point for discussion. "They are not intended to apply to a single activity nor necessarily to the program of any one agency. If we were to think of an individual in the process of his development and inquire if he were being well equipped to live wisely with leisure, we would say that the answer to this inquiry could be given by the application of these criteria. There is no particular logic in the order in which they are given. They could be grouped under major headings but this has been purposely avoided in order that a number of ideas may be brought out with greater emphasis and sharpness by separate listing."

EDUCATION for leisure is not the same thing as, nor the automatic result of, programs of recreational activities. Effective education for leisure makes definite demands upon us. Our objectives must be clear; we must know what specific things we are attempting to accomplish; we must provide the kind of leadership as well as the kinds of activities and resources which will have some chance of achieving results which are consonant with our aims and our claims.

What, then, are the characteristics of an adequate program of education for leisure?

1. Are the interests or activities engaged in capable of persisting on the adult level? If not, their value is limited or indirect. The experiences of many of us in high school and college are pertinent here. My own activities were primarily in football, basketball, and track. Yet, for some reason or other, these activities which engaged large blocks of my time then, no longer form a part of my leisure pursuits. This does not mean that there are not some valuable learnings possible from these activities, but surely when these activities exclude others which might continue on the adult level the individual is being deprived of important elements in his education for leisure. Among the physical activities which satisfy this criterion are

tennis, hiking, golf, swimming, badminton, handball, archery, horseshoes, squash and ping pong.

2. Is the interest of the individual in the activity or experience itself? Is there a genuine rather than an artificial motivation present? If the interest is primarily in such things as qualifying for awards or honors, or engaging in a scheduled program because that is expected of everybody, then there is practically no value as education for leisure. If interests and habits are to persist, the individual must like and find satisfaction in a thing for its intrinsic merit. We need to scrutinize carefully then the motives utilized in securing participation in activities. The elimination of artificial motivation is often a long and difficult task. We have been ten years at Camp Ahmek¹, for example, in moving from the situation where almost everything from morning to night rested upon some sort of competitive or other artificial basis, to the present situation, where the entire program is rooted in the purposes and interests of the campers as they are discovered and stimulated by alert and resourceful leaders.

3. Does the individual secure from the activities a sense of progress, mastery, success, and achievement? Some of the activities engaged in by the individual must yield these satisfactions if they are to contribute most to his personality. Perhaps we may adopt as a general principle the notion that successes should outweigh failures if personality is to be enhanced rather than deflated. This means that an individual should achieve some degree of real skill in some of his pursuits. It is

1. Canoe Lake, Ontario.

possible, however, to get a sense of growth and achievement along the way toward skill if goals are set up in realistic fashion.

4. Does the individual secure encouragement, social recognition, and approval through his participation in the activity? Perhaps the technique of commendation or recognition has been worked out as well in our best summer camps as in any of our educational agencies. Here it is relatively easy to give recognition in relation to the individual's ability and experience rather than on a basis of absolute standards. From the personality or mental hygiene standpoint, those who achieve the least really need the most encouragement. The beginners, the "duds," not the stars, need the recognition and the sense of worth which it brings. Comparison, and competition which results in comparison, are great enemies of wholesome personality because they almost inevitably breed in some individuals a sense of failure and defeat.

5. Does the person have a sense of belonging to and being important in a social group? Mental hygienists stress the importance of this criterion. Individuals simply must have, if they are to have any sense of worth at all, a feeling that they belong, and are making some valuable contribution to their group or community. Classes organized around instructors probably have a minimum of value from this standpoint compared with self-propulsive, continuous groups.

6. Is there a distribution of experiences among physical, aesthetic, intellectual, and social types of leisure pursuits? There are some distinctive values to be achieved in activities of each of these types. An adequate education for leisure, therefore, should not leave persons impoverished at any of these major points. An agency might test its own program to some extent on the basis of its resources for developing these various types of interest.

7. Do some of the interests or activities give an opportunity for a creative expression of the self? There is a peculiar joy and pride and thrill which comes with creative endeavor which is richly satisfying to the soul of man. It will be very unfortunate, however, if we attach the term "crea-

"Some of us feel that we are 'aesthetic morons' because our lives are so lacking in capacity to appreciate and appropriate the resources of the arts. But the 'motor moron' also loses something very fine and valuable. There is rhythm, beauty and emotional thrill in a beautiful stroke in golf, a powerful ping pong drive, a graceful dive or a neat 'coming about' in a sailboat. Similarly, there are significant values to be achieved in leisure enterprises that are essentially intellectual and social in character."

tive" to certain types of activities, such as the arts and crafts, rather than to a certain quality of experience. Physical activities, for example, may reach the level of creativity, while much of what now passes for handicraft is deadly imitative. To recall the fate of manual training in the public school curriculum may be instructive here. Manual training

was introduced into the public schools largely as an attempt to provide some spontaneous, creative, self-expressive type of activity. But it was not long before manual training was so thoroughly routinized that it was not necessarily more spontaneous or creative than spelling or history or any of the traditional other subjects.

8. Are the activities healthful? We still need to guard against physical strain in the more strenuous physical activities. The greatest danger, however, may be the nervous strain of overstimulation in highly competitive and exciting activities. The findings of Sanders reported in *Safety and Health in Organized Camps* clearly indicated that in many camps the resistance of individuals is lowered through over-stimulation resulting from highly organized and exciting activity. In lowering the age level of children admitted to camp, some of our social agencies who take children as young as eight and nine years of age greatly increase these dangers of physical and nervous strain. A mere "toning down" of the régime and program for older boys and girls is utterly inadequate to meet the needs of younger children. The physical, health, mental, personality, and social needs of the younger child are so different from those of the older boy or girl that they must be clearly understood and provided for.

9. Is the person developing a variety of interests and resources which will fit him to meet all types of situations readily? A person should feel at home in a great variety of situations. Some persons are "bored stiff" with their own company because they do not have sufficient resources to be self-stimulating. An amateur knowledge of astronomy helped some soldiers in France to find interesting and fascinating companionship with the stars in the solitude of what otherwise might have been a dreary night on the battlefield. Other persons are

ill at ease with groups. They have not learned the knack of social adaptability and poise.

10. Are individual differences in interest, aptitude, age and capacity recognized and provided for? This principle is diametrically opposite to the idea of running programs where everyone is doing the same thing at the same time and in the same way. It means freedom of choice in the activities or interests pursued. It means the kind of instruction, if needed, which recognizes where the individual now is in his abilities and development.

11. Does the activity lead the person into a richer context of meaning? The "associate learnings" of an activity are very often richer and more valuable than the learnings in the activity itself. We have had some excellent illustrations of this among our students at the College² this year. For example, one student in a pottery class started to make a vase, but before he was finished he was deeply immersed in the study of Pueblo culture. The ramifications of "leadings on" of almost any of these activities is amazing. We may move from contract bridge to fashions and from there to the roots of our economic structure. We may jump from an interest in a stamp to the history of a foreign country and from there to problems of international relationships. Alert and discerning leadership is needed if the richness of the "leadings on" is to be realized.

2. George Williams College, Chicago.

12. Are resources being developed within the individual for active and self-propelled leisure enterprises? It is all too obvious that multitudes today are dependent almost entirely upon amusements being supplied for them which they take sitting down—watching, listening, or riding. Persons should develop some inner resources which make them independent of equipment, resources, time, and place. Many of these pursuits should be active. Persons should also be free from too much dependence upon leaders, teachers, or instructors in many of their pursuits. Perhaps the leisure agencies should consider their work a failure if persons who have been related to them for a period of years still need to have activities provided and conducted for them. Groups must learn how to pursue their own interests, getting help from instructors or institutions only if and when needed. Overdependence on institutions in the pursuit of leisure enterprises may be as serious a mark of immaturity as is overdependence in other things.

13. Is the individual encouraged to start some new things as well as to continue those things in which he is now competent? The habit of starting new habits may be as important in the field of recreation as in the broader aspects of social life. There appears to be a genuine psychological value in the exhilaration that comes in discovering and exploring some entirely new field of interest. There is some emotional thrill or zest in baking the first pie on a canoe trip, in painting the

first picture, in handling the tiller and the sheet of a dinghy for the first time, in making some gadget, or even in having command of the wheel of a car for the first time. Individuals need



"Open my ears to music. Let me thrill with Spring's first flutes and drums."

to get out of ruts, and even so-called recreation may become routine through habit.

14. Is the individual learning to appraise and to appropriate wisely the resources in his community for a fruitful use of leisure? This is an important question. It demands the development of taste, for example, in the selection of movies, radio, and the theater. It also means an awareness of and the habit of using available community resources in art, in music, in intellectual, and in other forms of leisure pursuits.

15. Do some of the activities provide the individual with genuine emotional release? One of the major functions of recreational activities is to yield zest, novelty, new experience, and excitement. John Dewey has stated the psychological value of recreation in a very suggestive fashion. He asserts that the function of recreation is to take up some of the slack between the emotional and impulsive capacities which the individual possesses and the extent to which they find constructive expression. There is some value, too, in sheer emotional release. You will recall that William James suggested the value of a woodpile and an axe as a source of emotional outlet for persons with emotional tension or temper. We need some modern equivalent of the woodpile.

16. Does the activity make the individual a more sensitive and intelligent participant in the task of creating a better social order?

- (a) Do the learnings of particular activities lead to qualities of social sensitiveness, responsibility, and cooperativeness? We know now that as a person participates in a particular activity many social attitudes are inevitably involved, but the learnings may be negative rather than positive. The individual may be learning irresponsibility, selfishness, indifference to human values, or lack of self-control. If positive or desirable social learnings are to result, it is essential that leaders be aware of the possible outcomes and understand the conditions under which the wholesome or socially desirable learnings are most likely to result.
- (b) Are the persons and groups developing a socialized view of leisure which recognizes its relation to economic security, to working conditions, to community housing, and to similar factors? A worthy leisure is impossible apart from a worthy labor. A worthy leisure is difficult, if not impossible, to achieve in the

"slum" environment. If you want to grow roses on the desert it must be irrigated. If we want to develop the finer flowers of the human personality we must provide the kind of environment conducive to this result.

The primary function of some leisure activities is undoubtedly that of providing the individual with an escape from the realities and responsibilities of his personal and community life. Many "recreational" activities, like some types of "worship" experiences, provide an escape into an imaginative world divorced from reality, or function as an anaesthesia which deadens the sensitiveness of the individual to the sordid and stark issues and realities of a corporate form of living. An effective education for leisure will develop persons who will help to remake life at the points of its deficiency. The following verses from Untermeyer's prayer are the expression of a poetic soul who refuses to enjoy life forgetful of the woes of his brothers.

Ever insurgent let me be,
Make me more daring than devout;
From sleek contentment keep me free,
And fill me with a buoyant doubt.

Open my eyes to visions girt
With beauty, and with wonder lit—
But let me always see the dirt,
And all that spawn and die in it.

Open my ears to music; let
Me thrill with Spring's first flutes and drums—
But never let me dare forget
The bitter ballads of the slums.

"How are our people to be enabled to enjoy the exercise of their highest faculties; how is appreciation of music, painting, etching, handicrafts, literature, to be made an integral element in the life of our society? These problems require concentrated and varied wisdom. They must get the attention of individuals with vision and also of educational authorities who can apply to them the resources of the state. . . . The best thought of understanding men and women on this new phase of our cultural life will point the way and give encouragement to our educational authorities. By such combined effort democracy advances."—*Robert A. Falconer in Journal of Adult Education, January 1936.*

When Winter Dons Her Mantle White

By EDWARD BROOKS BALLARD

It's time to hunt up skates and skis and all the other aids to winter fun, and go adventuring on unknown trails!

THE PHENOMENAL increase of public interest in winter sports during the past few years has brought a growing demand for winter sports facilities closer to our seacoast cities and farther south. In trying to meet this demand we should make careful studies of snow and temperature conditions in each area of proposed development, and determine whether the probable amount of use of special winter sports facilities in a short season will warrant the expense of providing them. As a general rule, it will not be feasible to provide them in areas where snow does not remain on the ground to a depth of at least six inches, and the temperature does not stay below freezing for more than thirty separate—though not necessarily consecutive—days during the winter. In those few fortunate regions where it is possible to enjoy both summer and winter sports the year round there will obviously be less demand for the latter.

Winter Sports Grow in Popularity

If time permitted I would like to expatiate on the acceleration of winter sports activity, especially skiing, as I have watched and participated in it in New England since 1931. In January of that year the first "ski train" left Boston's North Station with less than 200 passengers for Mt. Kearsarge, New Hampshire. During the past season "snow trains" have carried more than 40,000 passengers from many of our larger cities, including New York, into snow-covered sections of New England for skiing, snowshoeing and tobogganing. Thousands more have motored over our ploughed highways to hotels, inns and numerous farm-



Courtesy Fresno County, Calif., Chamber of Commerce

In its rapidly developing program California presents a challenge to older winter sports frontiers!

houses for winter week-ends or longer vacations. Hillsides near countless communities have been dotted with youthful skiers, while dozens of new skating-rinks and toboggan-slides have appeared on public playgrounds.

In order to realize fully the extent to which participation in downhill ski running, as opposed to ski jumping, has gripped the public fancy, you should see the forest of skis in Boston's North Station about 8:30 of a winter Sunday morning, or witness the pilgrimage of skiers on a holiday weekend to New England's skiing Mecca on Mt. Wash-

ington where a thousand persons have climbed two and a half miles on more than one occasion to ski in Tuckerman Ravine!

This acceleration in skiing activity has induced, and at the same time been encouraged by, a sudden and in some sections almost mushroom-like growth of facilities for downhill ski running. During the past three years the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in building ski trails on public areas has greatly accentuated this activity. A year ago it became apparent that further development of skiing facilities on public areas called for greater coordination by public planning agencies to give it wise control in the public interest.

The National Park Service is cooperating with State Park Authorities and winter sports organizations to carry out a well-rounded program of winter sports development with CCC labor on New England State Parks, Forests and Reservations.

In order to determine what a well-rounded program of winter sports development may involve on any public area, it will be helpful to classify winter sports activities and their facility requirements according to use areas. It goes without saying, perhaps, that winter sports activities—as different forms of outdoor recreation in a cold climate—depend on different conditions of snow and ice. On the basis of these conditions we may divide winter sports areas into two major groups: those for intensive or concentrated use, and those for extensive use. We may further subdivide the intensive-use areas into (1) those requiring a restricted ice surface, (2) those requiring a comparatively flat snow surface, (3) those requiring snow slopes with special structures, and (4) those requiring snow slopes without structures. We may subdivide extensive-use areas into (1) those requiring a large ice surface, (2) those requiring large snow-covered areas either flat or gently rolling, and (3) those requiring large, snow-covered, hilly areas. For the purposes of this discussion I shall merely enumerate the activities which fall into each group, and touch briefly upon the facility requirements of each.

Intensive-Use Areas

For intensive-use areas, those activities requiring a restricted ice surface are speed

and figure skating, ice hockey, curling, ice shuffleboard and ice bicycling.

It is common knowledge that all these forms of ice sports require a smooth surface to be thoroughly enjoyed, and that both ice hockey and curling require rinks of special dimensions. To give maximum use, the proper maintenance of ice for these activities requires a great deal more attention than most persons realize. A regular crew should be on call to keep the ice cleared of snow with plow, scoops and brooms or a rotary power brush. An ice scraper should be used at certain times and an adequate water supply should be made available for flooding the surface. Accompanying facilities should include a heated shelter and refreshment building with wooden runway to the ice, sanitary facilities, supply of drinking water, and floodlighting of the area for night use. Benches and possibly picnic facilities may be added, and adequate space for auto parking should be close at hand.

Activities requiring a comparatively flat snow surface are such games and races as ski tilting, ski obstacle racing, ski joring with horses or humans for pulling (like aquaplaning on the water), and snowshoe racing. They require merely an open area with several inches of soft snow over hard base snow.

Activities requiring snow slopes with special structures are coasting (where there are no natural slopes for sled runs), tobogganing, ski jumping. Small structures are sometimes erected for sliding on flat playgrounds.

Toboggan-slides may be built with snow banks, but they are not completely safe and satisfactory without a specially constructed wooden chute, slightly wider than a toboggan, on the slope and preferably on the level runout. They may be built singly or in tandems of two or more. (I know at least one instance where you may slide down one chute and part way back on another.) The amount of use they receive will be greatly increased by night lighting.

Ski jumping is a specialized form of the sport comparable to high diving. Although small, so-called "natural jumps" may be used, the safest course is over a specially constructed jump with scientifically accurate proportions between the length of the in-run, the height and width of

Mr. Ballard is Associate Landscape Architect, Branch of Planning and State Cooperation, National Park Service, Boston. His address on "Winter Sports," reprinted here by courtesy of the *American Planning and Civic Annual*, was presented at the Sixteenth National Conference on State Parks which was held at Hartford, Conn., June 1-3, 1936.

the take-off, and slope of the landing hill.

Both toboggan-slides and ski jumps require constant attention to keep them properly iced or packed with snow. Careful control of the crowds which use the one and watch the other is essential for public safety and convenience.

Activities requiring snow slopes without

structures are coasting and downhill ski running.

Where city streets are not closed and barricaded by special ordinance for coasting during the winter months, it will be desirable to set aside special hills for sliding on straight sleds, flexible fliers and "double-runners," as we used to call them.

Downhill ski running on small intensive-use areas will ordinarily be limited to open and semi-open ski practice slopes, which should be separated from all other use areas for maximum safety and convenience. These are sometimes called "nursery slopes" (meaning not a place where young trees grow straight, but one where "dub, sub-dub and rubby-dub-dub" skiers — to quote a well-known winter sports enthusiast — learn the rudiments of the sport, and leave many a sitz-platz in the process). Practice slopes may be provided with ski tows or other mechanical means of uphill conveyance having an endless cable and some form of motive power. Such equipment may be portable so that it can be removed at the end of the season. Ski practice slopes may be flood-lighted to advantage for night use and portable carbide lamps used for this purpose.

In a concentrated-use area for skiing, which is at all remote from human habitation, it will be desirable to have a heated and lighted skier's lodge with a supply of drinking water, sanitary facilities, and emergency outfit with first-aid kit and either sheet metal or wooden toboggan. Picnic facilities may be desirable, and ploughed auto roads should give easy access to nearby parking space.



From January 2-20, 1937, the School of Physical Education and Hygiene of Russell Sage College, Troy, N. Y., will conduct four one-week courses at Putney, Vermont, in the theory and practice of skiing. Mrs. Ingrid Holm of Sweden will give the instruction.

Extensive-Use Areas

We now come to extensive-use areas for winter sports. Activities in this major group which require a large ice surface are skate sailing and ice boating. The former may be enjoyed on a prepared rink of sufficient size, but the latter requires a large pond or lake under naturally smooth ice conditions and has a limited appeal.

Activities requiring large snow-covered areas, either flat or rolling, are ski-touring, snowshoeing, dog-sledding and horse-sleighing.

Ski-touring is not to be confused with cross-country racing over various kinds of prescribed courses (langlauf and langrend in other languages), but refers to uphill and downdale skiing over open terrain or on cross-country trails through wooded terrain at a pleasurable pace. Snowshoeing is in the same category. For those who enjoy winter camping a series of cabins may be strategically located for week-end or vacation use by cross-country skiers and snowshoers. Many foot trails will provide suitable travel ways, except where steep grades require more winding alternate sections for downhill skiing.

Dog-sledding is another form of winter sport with a rather limited appeal, but one need not own a team of Eskimo dogs or "huskies" to enter a dog-sled "derby."

With more and more auto roads ploughed clear of snow all winter it becomes increasingly difficult to find good roads for sleighing. This is a congenial form of winter sport for persons of all ages to enjoy and means should be provided for it wherever possible.

Finally, the activities which require a large, snow-covered, hilly terrain are downhill ski running on trails and mountain slopes and bob-sledding.

Intermediate between open practice slopes for downhill ski running and ski trails come what we may call "natural slalom" areas. The term "slalom," which applies to a zig-zag downhill race course between flags, has been borrowed to designate a semi-open slope sufficiently clear for skiing between clumps of trees or through a stand of large trees whose branches meet to form an overhead canopy.

Without becoming too involved in the controversial subject of ski trail design, we may say that downhill ski trails are of three types: (1) narrow and gently winding trails with easy gradients, for novices or ordinarily competent skiers; (2) wider, sharply turning trails with many angles up to 90 degrees or over and steeper gradients, for intermediate or third-class skiers, and (3) less sharply turning trails of similar width with angles less than 90 degrees, though not straight enough to be run without checking, and steepest of all, for expert or second-class skiers.

Several novice trails should be laid out near the "natural slalom" area, at least two intermediate trails in the vicinity to prevent overcrowding, and for a few of the most suitable areas in the region an expert down-mountain trail, primarily for racing, with the standard vertical descent of at least one-thousand-foot drop in a mile of length.

Accompanying facilities for downhill skiing areas will include closed shelters at the bottom of all trails and also at the top of those over half a mile in length, emergency outfits with first-aid kit and toboggan in each shelter, sanitary facilities and if possible a supply of drinking water. There should be access over ploughed roads to auto parking space as close as can be to the beginning of all trails.

Bob-sledding is really in a class by itself. I have left it until last, because it requires

a combination of extensive hilly terrain and special structural facilities. A bob-sled track should be scientifically laid out on carefully selected terrain according to engineering specifications. It should have control points at fairly frequent intervals and a telephone line for quick communication. Only experienced drivers should be allowed to steer the sleds in general public use.

Things to Keep in Mind

It can readily be seen from the foregoing classification of winter sports activities, according to intensive and extensive-use areas, that most of them should be concentrated in centers of development. The health, safety and convenience of the public, economical and efficient use of the facilities, and last but not least the preservation of the natural surroundings, call for such concentration. In general I believe these centers should be developed in municipal parks with primary emphasis on intensive-use areas, in metropolitan parks or state parks near large cities with equal emphasis on intensive and extensive-use areas, and on state or Federal parks with primary emphasis on extensive-use areas.

The increasing trek of skiers and other winter sports enthusiasts by auto, "snow train" and "snow bus" to suitable terrain brings the need of developing such centers near winter sports resorts. It is perhaps needless to say that they should be coordinated with the year-round recreational development of the region, and facilities combined wherever feasible for both summer and winter use.

Many winter sports, like all those which require the combination of speed, skill and stamina, become competitive; and, in proportion to the degree of speed, skill and stamina attained, they become spectacular. However, encouraging it is to note that a large percentage of the spectators at any winter sports event are also participants in some form of that sport, we must remember that crowds will always congregate at ski meets, snow fests, winter frolics and carnivals, and make adequate provision for handling them on these special occasions.

New facilities for winter sports use should not be built until provision is made for

(Continued on page 464)

"Thousands of people are beginning to learn that winter is no longer a necessary evil to be merely tolerated, but a part of our natural existence in cold climates, to be enjoyed as much as other seasons out of doors. They are quick to refute the somewhat exaggerated contention of our friends from the sunny southland that we should give the frigid northland, especially New England, back to the Eskimos!"

Why Not Puppets

By KATE C. HALL

District of Columbia Recreation Committee
Washington, D. C.

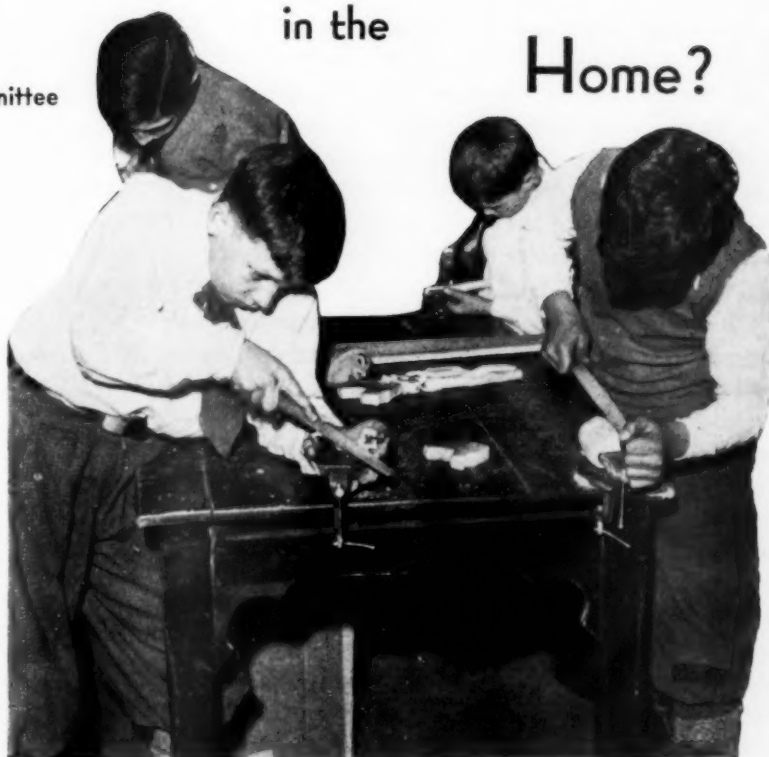
MANY AUTHORITIES believe that a better integrated and unified social life can be secured only through the better integration and unification of family life. This means that the home must again become the center for certain phases of the recreational life of the family. Consideration must then be given to the development of a community interest among the members of the family. Recreational activities rich in cumulative interest and appealing to various age levels and varying types of ability are ideally adapted to this purpose. Herein lies one value of puppetry as a family activity.

Have you ever visited in a home where the various members of the family played musical instruments and were in the habit of playing good music together regularly, and have you seen what such a shared activity may mean to a home? I suggest that an interest in puppetry on the part of the members of a family group would be comparable to such an interest in music. It does not require as much training and skill and it has elements which appeal very definitely to persons with widely varying abilities and interests. I am not, of course, suggesting any substitution of puppetry for music, or for any other art form or recreational activity in the home. As a matter of fact, it might well aid in stimulating an interest in music and the other arts. I recommend it merely as an unexplored field for the enjoyment and enrichment of family life where some central and progressive interest for recreational purposes is a felt need of the members of the family.

Puppetry is an activity which is most suitable for use by a small group. In a "company" of

in the

Home?



Courtesy Art Service Project, WPA, New York

Puppetry is a highly diversified art, calling into play talents of all kinds

from three to six members, each member has an opportunity for full participation in the activity, and there is sure to be a certain unity and coherence in production which is often lacking when puppet plays are produced by too large a body. In the comfortable atmosphere of the home, ideas which spring up can be tried out at once, and an exchange of comments and suggestions takes place naturally and spontaneously. Then, too, working in a small group is conducive in other ways to that spirit of informality in which the marionette comes most quickly and easily to life.

An Inexpensive Hobby

If entered into with any degree of imagination and enthusiasm, puppetry is not an expensive activity. The home is a good hunting ground for

just those treasures among "waste" materials—mother's scrap bag, with bits of cloth for costumes and ends of yarn for hair; broken pieces of furniture; wooden and cardboard boxes; oatmeal cartons; odds and ends of tools—which are most adaptable by an inventive mind to the making of puppets and marionettes. An initial outlay of about a dollar and a half is enough to start the family on its way as a puppet-making group: fifty cents for modeling clay, such as Plasteline, which may be used over and over for the first modeling of heads; five cents a pound for plaster of Paris for making the molds (two pounds, at ten cents, will make four or five medium sized molds); sixty cents for cans of household paint in the following colors—red, cream or white, black, brown, blue and yellow; ten cents for a couple of spools of button or carpet thread for stringing; five or ten cents for a spool of copper wire used for fastening joints together and modeling the framework of the hands, and ten or fifteen cents for tacks, screw eyes, and other bits of hardware—these will take care of the need for bought materials for five or six puppets, enough to give a performance.

About the house there are always old newspapers and plenty of flour and water for paste, the two requisite materials for making papier maché heads. Or if the family can boast amateur carvers among its members, scraps of wood may take the place of the other materials. Old chair rungs make good arms and legs. Oatmeal boxes may be used as the foundation for animal bodies—spools for joints of arms and legs, for a dragon's tail or for building up puppet furniture. The children particularly will be quick to see how scrap materials of all sorts may be used to make some part of a puppet or a stage set which is needed at the time. There are few better activities for fostering ingenuity and inventiveness than working in a puppet group which is operating on little or no funds.

One Family's Experience

An interesting example of the insidious appeal which puppetry can exercise in a family group recently came to

my attention. During the darkest years of the depression the oldest daughter of this family was at home, out of work, taking care of her ill mother and hard put to it to keep up the lagging spirits of the other members of the family. She had long nursed the hope of some day making a puppet of her own, but had always considered that it would cost too much and would take too much valuable time from the job. The presence of a lonely and restless younger brother in the household gave her an excuse to try the experiment.

With fear and trembling she made her first marionette, using directions long since written out for her by puppeteering friends. She made the wooden body from scraps picked out of the old wood pile in the backyard, and the arms and legs from chair rungs she found in her grandmother's attic, using only the few simple tools the family work box held, such as hammer, saw, and small brace and bit. The head was the usual papier maché type, but it cost only fifteen cents to make—ten cents for the Plasteline for modeling the head—and this she was later able to use over and over for making other heads—and five cents for the plaster of Paris to make the mold. The paints came from the ten cent store and were used again and again; the clothes came from her mother's scrap bag; the yarn and button thread for stringing was purchased at the ten cent store for an outlay of about fifteen cents. All in all, this first marionette cost about eighty cents, including five cans of household paint and ten cents worth of modeling clay, which were later used for other puppets.

The puppet was an instant success with the little brother, who at once demanded to make one for himself. The curiosity of the rest of the family was aroused and almost every night found one or more of them in the kitchen or in the daughter's bedroom where puppet activities proceeded at full pace.

Many Abilities Called Into Play

Many types of ability are called into action in making puppets and producing plays with them: If there are musicians in the family, they can provide the always welcome

"With the recent revival of interest in puppetry as an art form and a recreational activity, one very important opportunity has been missed by our little wooden friends in their failure to invade the home. Can they have forgotten that during the years when their tribe was being quickly pushed into the background, they were remembered and kept alive by certain families in Europe who handed down their puppets, plays and traditions of construction and production from generation to generation? If family groups have made successful and devoted marionette companies before, is it too much to expect that they may do so again? The joining of forces should have certain advantages for both the puppets and the members of the home group who explore their possibilities."

incidental music. In addition to the experience of playing for productions there could hardly be better training for the young composer than trying his ideas out in just such a group. If there are budding electricians, they may experiment with lighting effects. Most women who like to sew have never got over their interest in making "doll clothes," and in dressing puppets they may indulge their creative faculties in design and execution to the fullest because of the low cost. Those who have artistic proclivities may make the heads, modeling or carving them as their tastes dictate, or may try their hands at designing and painting both puppets and scenery. Those who like carpentry find ample room for self-expression in making the bodies, legs, arms, shoes, small stages and furniture. Any member who likes to write can work on the scripts for the plays, but if there is nobody in the family with such a special ability, all may create very good plays by working together, provided that they are interested in, and have a good eye for, dramatic situations. The would-be actors have a fine field for experimentation in the use of the voice, since often one puppeteer must act several parts even in one play. And almost everybody who takes pleasure in manual dexterity will enjoy learning to manipulate a puppet, whether or not that is to be part of his job in actual production.

Puppets do not take up a great deal of room. They may be picked up and put down at will. They may be worked on by different members of the group whenever they have time and inclination, or by the whole group together when that is what everybody feels like doing.

Puppet plays may be given without any elaborate stage equipment, although it is always part of the fun to build a stage at some time during the activity. A first stage may be simply improvised in a doorway. Straight chairs, with their backs turned toward the audience and covered with shawls or blankets for back and side drops, can be arranged to form back and wings for the stage proper. A sheet hung in the doorway from the top of the opening to the top of the "proscenium arch" will hide the players, who stand on the seats of the chairs, the "bridge" from which they manipulate the puppets. Very artistic effects may be secured in such improvised stages, with the aid of a little taste and imagination.

Sources of Information

Most public libraries have a good selection of

books from which directions may be secured for making puppets and preparing plays. Paul McPharlin of Birmingham, Michigan, publishes a number of books and also inexpensive pamphlets on various phases of puppetry, and will send information about where to secure all sorts of materials relating to puppets to any one who writes for it. Among the good practical books on the market are *The Ragamuffin Marionettes*, by Warner; *Marionettes, Masks and Shadows*, by Mills and Dunn; *Be a Puppet Showman*, by Remo Bufano; *A Handbook of Fist Puppets*, by Ficklen; *Marionettes: Easy to Make, Fun to Use*, by Ackley. A puppeteer with any imagination and artistic ability might use the books as a starting point, perhaps making the first marionette or two carefully by directions, perhaps experimenting for a while with both hand puppet and string marionette, and using several different types of and methods for making each. But after the initial experimentation he will probably combine the features that best suit his purposes from among the several types of puppets and methods of making them, and more than likely will evolve new forms and new techniques to suit his particular needs.

Securing plays to give is not so easy a matter, as all who participate in puppetry, either as a professional group or for purposes of recreation, know very well. The best way is undoubtedly to create your own plays out of situations from life or imagination, especially those which lend themselves to gentle satire or to humorous interpretation. The children in the family may well have favorite stories, from among folk and fairy tales, or even bits of well-loved novels, which they will like to dramatize. Songs with a narrative interest may be turned into pantomimes or "operettas." Bits of longer plays, such as the Pyramus and Thisbe episode from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, or the amusing duets from the last part of *The Mikado* may be tried. Most of the books on puppetry contain one or two plays which may be used without royalty, and Paul McPharlin, the puppet publisher mentioned above, has a list of suitable plays, both with and without royalty, describing them and telling where they may be found. There is a crying need for more short plays, calling for only a few puppets, such as Forman Brown's *Weather* and Grace Dorcas Ruthenberg's *The Moon for a Prince* and *The Gooseberry Mandarin*. What a delightful thing if the formation of home companies should result

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Where Music Flourishes

"Music for Everybody"

THE FLINT, MICHIGAN, Community Music Association, while organized as a sort of clearing house for all things musical in the city, is a civic and social agency designed to serve as a citizenship medium and to enrich the lives of the people through music. It has been organized to function on a city-wide basis through cooperation with all existing institutions and with groups already established, such as the industries, commercial establishments, churches, schools, homes, lodges, luncheon clubs and women's clubs, as well as with specific musical groups where mutual cooperation is possible.

Though its approach is social, the association is interested in the highest artistic standards as demonstrated for many years in its local, national and international reputation for artistic achievement. The high artistic achievements in the public schools, both vocally and instrumentally, are continued in the Choral Union and Flint Symphony Orchestra, I. M. A. Glee Clubs, Part Song Club, Civic Opera. It has become a valuable publicity medium for the city of Flint in making it known as a city of cultural and educational advantages.

The program of activities of the association is determined by the board of directors and executive committee according to the needs and demands of the city as a whole. Membership in the association includes all citizens of Flint and friends who are interested in having the city become better through music and declare such desire by signing an application blank which entitles such person to membership card and involves three obligations: (1) To attend one concert each season by the Flint Symphony Orchestra or Choral Union; (2) to inform personally five or more different persons about the work of the Community Music Association one week before each

"Everybody for Music"

concert, and invite them to attend the concert; (3) to cancel this membership in writing when there is a wish to sever connections with the association. There are no individual dues. Participating members are those actively engaged in the various musical organizations directly sponsored by the association.

At the offices of the Association on the Central High School campus, rooms are available for committee meetings of all musical groups of the city, and small ensembles make use of the larger office for evening rehearsals.

What Does the Association Do?

It is impossible to tell of the many activities of the association; of the instrumental and vocal groups it has organized; of the ramifications of its influence in the community. A brief statement of the activities of a typical day will give some conception of its services.

There were thirty-nine telephone calls including inquiries regarding the Flint Concert Association, I. M. A. Men's Glee Club, opera rehearsals, dance orchestras, St. Cecilia, Flint Symphony Orchestra membership, Community Chest, Social Workers' Club, Messiah soloists, Northern Orchestra, Central A Cappella Choirs, class lessons, best teachers with whom to study, orchestra for a banquet, Rotary, General Motors Tech., Exchange Club, Colored Center, music for Y.W.C.A. Girls' Glee Club, recommendation for church choir director, speaker for P. T. A., music for Kiwanis, Central Christian Choir, Groves Band, Part Song Club program, Lowell School Band, all-city junior high school band and orchestra, Michigan Theater, staging for Northern Choir, recreation program for various P.T.A. units, Zimmerman band possibilities. There were twenty-six letters and school bulletins taken from the

The eighteenth annual report of the Community Music Association of Flint, Michigan, from which we present some abstracts, is the story of an industrial community of 160,000 which is music-conscious. Under the leadership of William W. Norton, Executive and Music Organizer, the Association is living up to its slogan—"Music for Everybody — Everybody for Music."

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New Year's Day Around the World

A recipe for a highly cosmopolitan New Year's party in which are combined spicy ingredients from festive celebrations all over the world!

WHAT IS New Year's Day made of? Good resolutions, noise, a party and fancy dress, you say. True, but if you look further into foreign lands you will find it is also made of tangerines, "Kung Hi, Kung Hi's" bashed-in top hats, keys, peas and wheat, new clothes, crabs and lobsters, mummers, "first footers" and other strange things as surprising and unexpected as the ingredients of little boys and girls in the old rhyme!

A New Year's party based on the customs of other countries will provide a novel yet fitting theme for your celebration. Send out your invitations decorated with an hour glass or Old and New Year, inviting the guests to come in the costume of some country or as mummers. Ask each to bring a "white elephant" possession, securely wrapped, for as tradition has it in Scotland, a package in the hand of the guest insures the host of a bounteous year. (These gifts will be exchanged later in the evening as one of the party activities.)

Colorful decorations are in order for the party. In Japan, dark green pine branches and light green bamboo stalks are hung on the gate posts and tangerines and tangerine-like fruits are indicative of long life and happiness. Bright red lobsters and crabs are hung over doorways. These might be clues for your decorations and, expanded with banners and borrowed Japanese screens or hangings, they may be carried out to whatever degree of detail you wish. Or you may decorate with flags and banners or colors of many countries.

It is the custom in America for newspapers to list the major news items of the year at New

Year's time. For the first comers, lay out on a table a number of objects which suggest some of these major news events—a toy boat (Queen Mary), a cigar (The Hindenburg), a Spanish comb or hat (Spanish Civil War), a colored doll (Ethiopia), a ballot box (election), a five (the "Quints"), etc. If the objects are not available, rough sketches may be made and posted. A streamer from a newspaper (for "local color") on a poster announcing the nature of the contest and paper and pencils on the table, will make this activity a self-run one.

In Japan and China on New Year's Day everyone puts on brand new clothes and goes visiting; so at our party there will be a grand march with all kinds of figures and judges, of course, to award prizes for the prettiest, funniest, most unique costumes for both men and women.

At the end of the march each person is given a card and a pencil. On signal each tries to obtain as many signatures as he can. He approaches some one, bows in Chinese fashion, saying "Kung Hi, Kung Hi" (I humbly wish you joy) and the other replies, "Sin Hi, Sin Hi" (May joy be yours). Then each writes down the other's name. At the end of five minutes the person with the largest number of names receives a trivial award.

The "young bloods" in Berlin have a riotous time on New Year's Day going about crushing top hats down on the ears of their luckless wearers. Appeal to the police is futile; they merely shrug their shoulders and remind the victim of the season. While there will be few, if any, top hats at the party, the fun of bashing things can still be had. Give everyone a balloon which is to be tied

on the wrist—or you may designate the ankle if the group is not too large. At a signal each person tries to protect his own balloon (top hat) and break the others. As soon as a player's balloon is broken he retires to the edge of the group and all honor goes to the owner of the last balloon. (This game may be used in connection with a dance, in which case each couple has a balloon.)

The revelers will need to catch their breath after these strenuous activities. Pass out paper and pencils and announce that each guest must write out what he considers to be the duties of an honest, upright citizen. The papers are then passed four or five persons to the left and read, in turn. It will add to the merriment if these social obligations are written in terms of those present. For example, someone might suggest that a good citizen would spank any girl he saw flirting, would rumple the tidy Mr., and would see that Miss had no more than just enough make-up on.

Then because this is the last chance of the New Year to get bad habits "off one's chest," ask everyone to write down all the slang phrases he can in a certain length of time. The longest list wins. If the group is too large for checking lists of slang, the next game may be used in its place.

New Year's Eve is the traditional time for resolutions. Write down one resolution for the New Year. Warn the guests that these are to be read, and after they are written, pass them left four or five persons and read them aloud. With great pomp and ceremony place the resolutions in a coffer for preservation as evidence of good intentions.

In Belgium we hear of a "Sugar Uncle," a "Sugar Aunt." All the keys disappear from the inside doors in the houses before New Year's Day. Then, when an unsuspecting aunt or uncle goes into a room alone, the children rush to lock the doors on the outside and do not permit the aunt or uncle to come out until he or she has promised ransom with which the children will buy sugar plums and candy. Divide the group into a number of circles with ten to twenty players in each. A leader is given a key or a bunch of keys. He walks around the group nodding at players who fall in line behind him. When about half the members of the circle are trailing along, he drops the key and all dash to find places. The one left out pays "ransom" by being "it."

The circles may be easily straightened out into file formation for a "First Footer" relay. In

Scotland it is considered good luck to be the first to step into a house after midnight, so there is a mad dash from house to house after the stroke of twelve. Each team is a would-be "first footer." The leader counts to twelve and on "twelve" the first member of each team dashes to a goal and back, touching off the next player. The first team finished is the lucky one and receives a prize of cookies or tiny cakes, as was the custom.

Boys and girls of Russia have a rather strange custom. On New Year's Day they go about throwing peas and wheat at passers-by. The peas are thrown at enemies while the lighter wheat is reserved for friends. Wheat grains are too small to handle conveniently, so give everyone eight or ten beans of one kind and eight or ten of another kind. Say one kind is "friends" the other "enemies," but do not designate which is "enemy" or "friend." Guests are to trade with one another and at the end of five minutes the one with the fewest enemies and the one with the most friends are given prizes.

The virtues and good behavior come to mind as the exciting hour of twelve approaches. Divide the group into smaller groups and give each group a few minutes to plan a charade of one of the virtues to be adopted during the year. (The vices to be shunned might be included as well.) Other guests try to guess the virtue or vice represented.

As a reward for so splendid a presentation of virtues, bring out the "white elephants." In France the children leave their wooden shoes out at Christmas time for presents, but the adults exchange gifts at New Year's time. The "white elephants" may be brought out and distributed in any manner you like—by drawing, in grab bag style, or be given by Father Time. They should be opened on the spot to afford the whole group amusement.

As the New Year approaches, watch the clock closely. You will feel terribly disappointed if it creeps in behind your back. Build up to it with games and songs and at the crucial moment have noisemakers, confetti and serpentine paper at hand for everyone. After the hullabaloo of shouting and screaming and the racket of horns and trumpets and rattles have subsided and there tends to be a feeling of let down, serve refreshments—punch from the Scotch "bowl of toddy" tossed off with the toast, "Gude Luck," and cakes or cookies. A few familiar songs will send everyone home feeling friendly and happy and thinking of the old expression—"A good beginning—a good ending."

A Community Christmas

Each year more and more cities are pooling their resources to the end that all may share Christmas joys

FOR SEVERAL YEARS various organizations in Royal Oak, Michigan, have assumed the task of supplying toys, clothing, food and fuel to needy families. The depression made the problem more serious. Lack of unity allowed that "good cheer" of various organizations to be duplicated in many instances and many families equally in distress were left out. To overcome this, efforts were made to establish a clearing house.

Early in the fall of 1935 the annual drive became organized. A central committee was formed. Its membership was made up of representatives of the lodges, churches, clubs, Salvation Army and unattached public-minded citizens. With the cooperation of the welfare and health departments, the Community Union and the schools, an extensive list was prepared of families needing food, toys, clothing and fuel.

A clearing house was set up in which all families reported as needing aid were investigated to determine the aid needed. This prevented duplication of names. Printed forms were furnished in triplicate, one copy for the family head, the other two for the investigators and distribution center.

Funds were solicited with which to purchase some things of which an insufficient supply had been provided by generous homes; also to purchase repair materials for the toys, dolls and clothing.

Leaders in the community accepted certain assigned tasks and invited their friends and associates to join in soliciting used clothing, toys, dolls, and playthings, and to collect, repair and deliver them to the distribution center.

The elementary schools joined earnestly in gathering all kinds of dolls, doll equipment, games, toys, books and playthings, all of which were sent to the junior high school where a sorting room was established. Here toys were examined and appraised. Those worth repairing were sent to the shops in the various schools and

pupils repaired and repainted them. The sewing and art classes took over the dolls and doll clothing and bedding, washing all dolls, retinting many and laundering the soiled items. Teachers cooperated splendidly, working during classes as well as out-of-school hours. Pupils came Saturdays and many took things home to work on. Individuals and groups of townspeople assisted in sorting and repairing. All were eager to have a part in contributing good cheer to those less fortunate classmates and neighbors.

When completed the articles were sent to the distribution center, a room in a centrally located office building, the heating and lighting of which were donated by the owners. Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets of food were also collected in the schools and sent to families in distress.

At the junior high school motion picture assemblies were held. Admission was a toy, doll, game, book or plaything. Those unable to gain admittance in that manner paid five cents to attend. A contest among home rooms was sponsored to see which would bring the greatest number of contributions. One room brought 276 items. In the entire junior high school, having an enrollment of about 850, about 2,000 usable items were contributed by the pupils.

At the distribution center the toys, clothing, dolls, books and games were arranged on tables. The parents brought their "orders" from the investigators and were allowed to choose those things reported needed. The gifts were wrapped and taken home by the parents as if they had been obtained from the stores, thus causing the least embarrassment within the families.

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Elementary pupils gathered toys and games. The junior high school set up a sorting room. School shops repaired and repainted toys. Sewing and art classes took over the washing and retinting of dolls and doll clothing. Teachers worked in class and after school. Pupils came on Saturdays and all worked as a unit in a community-wide movement to give the needy of the town a merry Christmas." This, in brief, is the interesting story told by Leslie J. F. Edmunds in the November issue of *The Nation's Schools*.

The Richmond Traveling Players

THIS SEASON the Richmond Traveling Players, an adult drama group sponsored by the San Francisco Recreation Commission, celebrates its fifth year of activity.

In 1931 the group was organized by Miss Gertrude Freese, under the supervision of Miss Hester Proctor. The history of the Players has not been one of continual successes, but it has been a story of steady growth. The first production was something of a dramatic and financial nightmare because of unforeseen differences between certain members of the cast and a portion of the audience. With the very first act strange noises began to issue from the darkness of the auditorium. From the balcony came a deluge of beans all too well aimed from the pea shooters of a neighborhood gang. A famous actress of the old Belasco days sitting in the audience was forced to make her departure amid a veritable hailstorm of the little pellets. Lighting effects were interchanged so that the lightning flashed when the moon was supposed to rise and vice versa. Hoots, cat calls and donations of various kinds were so generous that at the close of the play the curtain came down with little short of a small riot in the auditorium. Yet in spite of the discouraging demonstration a goodly number of the players appeared next season to try their luck in the lists of drama a second time.

Facing them now was the usual bogey-man of amateur groups—high royalty rates. The second season they tried a modern non-royalty piece which they gave with success before several audiences in San Francisco. However, the shallowness of this play and of other non-royalty plays became too apparent. The performances were successful because the script was so simple that results could hardly be otherwise.

The personnel of the group fluctuated with annoying frequency. By the third season, the company had become reduced to four members and the director. Far from being discouraged, this handful of interested persons worked up an evening's program of one act plays which they performed continually for six months. They appeared on all

By **FREDERICK WAHL**
Director

sorts of stages, under every condition, and before as many types of audiences. Frequently they would put on a performance with no knowledge as to the size or the equipment of the theater in which they were to play. As often they would not see the stage until an hour or two before the performance. This meant that the entire business of a play might have to be changed at a moment's notice to fit the existing conditions without a chance for a single rehearsal.

Thus the actors became well suited to their name, the Richmond Traveling Players. With no home theater they traveled about San Francisco playing at any place where they could secure an engagement, gathering experience which could not be found in any school or text of acting.

Reviewing Theatrical History

In 1933 the company grew considerably and the director embarked on a new policy which the group has followed ever since. Finding the good modern royalty plays far beyond their means, and the usual run of the non-royalty play not worth the effort to produce, they turned to famous stage successes of other days, which had been played the world over by the greatest stars but which because of excessive length or antiquated speech and construction had passed into theatrical history. Here was a field of proven successes, and all free of royalty complications. All that was needed was to modernize them. Could it be done?

The first venture was a revival of the *Barber of Seville* given at the Little Theater of the Palace of the Legion of Honor. The new version was prepared by the director, who adapted his play to the group rather than the group to the play. The undertaking proved very successful.

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A story which proves that neither high royalties nor a lack of appreciation can discourage amateur actors!

The Skiing Epidemic Invades



the Western Slopes of the Rockies

By RAY FORSBERG

Salt Lake City, Utah

"**E**PIDEMIC" is an apt description for the new and revived interest in winter sports which pervades the Wasatch Mountain area, with Salt Lake City as the hub of the activity. This new emphasis is perhaps a reverberation from the recent nation-wide trend in winter sports rather than a singular condition, but the facts seem worthy of mention.

For many years the skiing possibilities of the Wasatch Range have been extolled by visiting ski experts, as well as by a handful of local devotees who have dipped into the winter fastnesses in years gone by. Certain areas have been compared favorably to the Swiss Alps and other renowned winter sport sections. Average snow conditions permit six months of winter sports. Not until the last two years, however, has this knowledge been generally verified from first hand information. During the past two years participation in skiing in the vicinity of Salt Lake City has increased in meteoric fashion. For every skier of the old régime there are fifty new converts, and judging from the contagious aspects of this sport the next few years should see comparatively greater increases in participation. The winter secrets of the Wasatch range are doomed!

Gone are the "toe-strap" skiing days, and the old custom of just "riding" down hill and walking back up, with skis over the shoulder. The supposed dangers from using ski harnesses have been completely eliminated; on the contrary, harnesses have become indispensable utility and safety factors in proper equipment. Gone are the cumbersome and unmanageable nine and ten foot ski outfits considered so vital to commodious ski travel! And gone, too, are the heavy and bulky types of clothing thought to be essential to winter sports indulgence. An entirely new theory and technique dominate the modern school of skiing, which even go so far as to include a new language. "Stem," "Christiana," "telemark," "valendsprung," and "slalom" are only a few of the terms that have crept into skiing conversation and become important to proper comprehension. Compact and practical equipment coupled with light, serviceable and colorful accouterments have revolutionized skiing quite generally, but especially now in the intermountain district.

Brighton is primarily a summer resort nestled at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon, some thirty miles from Salt Lake City, and accessible also from Park City by a six-mile mountain trail. The

snows pile up to a depth of nine and ten feet at Brighton during the course of the winter and provide the place with ideal winter resort possibilities. Adventurous skiers in bygone days were proud to relate their prowess in negotiating the mountain trail to Brighton in twelve to fourteen hours. It was not uncommon for less ambitious skiers to consume the better part of two days for the trip over, and two days back. Any thought of making a round trip in less than two days was dispelled with mumblings of lunacy. There is a radically different story today. An average skier, properly equipped, can make the trip over in three hours easily. Expert skiers make the run in less than two hours. Thus Brighton and other equally attractive skiing havens in the Wasatch Mountains have become accessible to Mr. Average Skier, and indications point to even greater activity in the winter than in the summer.

Another noteworthy change is taking place in local winter sport circles, and this change is particularly important from a recreational point of view. Skiing, up to a certain degree, is changing from a "spectator" to a "participation" activity. Thousands of people in the vicinity of Salt Lake City have seen some of the greatest and most colorful ski jumping exhibitions in the world. In fact, Salt Lake City has become the permanent home of a number of the greatest jumpers in the business by virtue of the great ski hills located in this territory. World records have been broken at Ecker Hill with such regularity and decisiveness that jumps under two hundred feet fail to excite the deserved recognition from the crowds.

Every time a new record was sought improvements were made in the take off and hill, and finally a jump of two hundred and ninety-one was accomplished. But these daring leaps by the country's best riders do not carry the same thrills as at first; in fact, it's much more thrilling *personally* to ski down the hill and perhaps make a small jump. And that happens to be the trend in this locality. Ski jumping exhibitions will always be attractive. The national

ski jumping tourney will undoubtedly be held in this region in 1937, and will draw thousands and thousands of spectators, but from now on the average fan is going to spend more time "doing" than "watching."

This mushroom growth in winter sports has focused the attention of the entire region upon the problems of further development. Additional trails need to be cleared; additional ski jumps and toboggan slides must be prepared and shelter and sanitation facilities constructed. Areas must be mapped and charted, and, most important of all, roads must be kept open. A civic Winter Sports Committee has been organized to coordinate the activity of all agencies to insure desired and maximum results. The Forestry Service, CCC, WPA, NYA, state, county, city, and service and activity clubs are all working with a single purpose—to make the intermountain country a better place to ski.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce has undertaken "ski train" promotion after a successful experiment last year. Five hundred skiers embarked on the first attempt, and at least four similar expeditions are scheduled for this season. Everyone is enthusiastic, and all are hopeful that some day Salt Lake City may become one of the prominent ski centers for America.

Increasing interest in skiing is shown in the action of the New York State Committee on Skiing of the Adirondack Mountain Club in calling a state-wide conference on skiing to be held in the State Office Building at Albany on December 5th.

All interested in skiing are invited to attend, and a special invitation is extended to playground, state and municipal park officials. Among the subjects discussed will be the following: Community Organization for Winter Sports; Safety in Skiing; Ski-tow Construction; Transportation; the Location, Construction, Financing and Supervision of ski trails and fields, and How to Serve the Interest of beginners and Novices.

"Why is there any reason to believe that skiing in this country will keep on growing in popularity? The answer is, first, that skiing history indicates American skiing has not yet reached its 'teens; and finally, that in the snow belt it has proven to be the most invigorating and enjoyable outdoor winter activity available to both sexes regardless of age. The one thing that might discourage skiing is recklessness—riding out of control, cracking up, attempting to progress too rapidly, disregard of ski etiquette, skiing without knowledge of snow conditions and suitable techniques, competing when not in training, and lack of respect for cold and storm. When such foolhardiness occurs there is not only personal danger, but danger to the health and lives of others, and of course, to the reputation of skiing as a sport. Skiing must be kept safe if it is to continue its phenomenal advance." From bulletin issued by the Western Massachusetts Winter Sports Council.

Mass Hikes

There is a definite place in the recreation program for the organized mass hike toward a group-determined objective.



Courtesy Los Angeles County, Department of Recreation, Camps and Playgrounds

EVERY NORMAL human being is endowed with a greater or less degree of what is properly called nomadism: the urge to move into new scenes, new and different environment. In its extreme form this produces the tramp, on the one hand, and the scientific explorer on the other. Society profits by the compelling "insanity" of an Admiral Byrd, but pays an economic price for the eternal wandering of the "Weary Willie."

Associated with this fundamental restlessness is the impulse to move en masse, to go with a crowd, to migrate in "herds," to tramp in unison with fellow creatures. There must be a kind of ecstasy in the initial moments even in the swarming of bees, the seasonal migrations of birds and the sudden movement of the pack.

Some wise student of human nature has said that happiness is the normal and natural by-product of the satisfaction of an inner urge in a way which squares with an ideal. Instinctively we must have our actions square with the prevailing ideals of the "herd." When we stride in wholesome cadence with our fellows towards some herd-determined objective, we experience deep satisfactions.

The organized mass hike towards a group-determined, or at least group-accepted objective, has an important place in community recreation programs. It arouses sleeping impulses to be up and on the move and to take up the step, so to speak, with the tribe. Naturally it selects those people

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who have strong nomadic tendencies, coupled with normal or more than normal gregarious and social instincts. By its very nature it eliminates the anti-social, the recreational misfits, the individualists, the rationalizing and compensating high-brows, and many other personalities who deviate from the normal in the direction of solitariness and introversion. Very often it does not eliminate the exhibitionist and other types of persons who exploit the group for egoistic satisfactions. But on the whole the mass hike, well organized and conducted, tends strongly to socialize the group and to long-circuit selfish tendencies.

Avoid Over-organization!

The words "well organized" and "well conducted" do not imply over-organization or ultra-strong leadership. They mean a minimum of regimentation and restraint. There is genuine fun in conforming to reasonable discipline on any group outing. However, hikes are often ruined by leaders with a prepossession for perfect organization and a meticulous concern for details. "Rough-hewn" recreational affairs are more human and have a more fundamental appeal. Fresh and spon-

taneous life flows into the events through crevices of delightfully imperfect organization.

Mass hikes are not suitable in the recreation program of all communities. They are probably not advisable for all groups, nor for all localities. Notwithstanding this, there are conditions under which the large crowd "Spaziergang" can be taken and repeated at regular intervals until it becomes traditional and works its way into the life of the people as a wholesome and happy expression of neighborliness.

Some of these favorable conditions are: first, a certain homogeneity and natural neighborliness of the people; second, inviting scenic features not too far distant from the central community; and third, a wise and enthusiastic organizing leadership which is permitted to carry on over a reasonable length of time.

Mass hikes should have some of the spirit of ancient pilgrimages. The destination very often can be the same, year after year, for the same outing. It should be considered in some symbolic sense as holy ground, where people have an irresistible urge to commune with sacred oracles of forest, stream, waterfall, or mountain gods; where they can play, dance, sing and worship in common.

Rhythm is important even in the regular recurrence of events. There are communities which have their seasonal and annual mass hikes and mountain-top pilgrimages. With the rhythmic repetition have come enrichment and charm. Throughout the years these great social events have gathered into themselves tradition, recreational ritual and delightful entertaining features, and have discarded activities and attitudes which failed to harmonize with the deeper meaning of the events.

A Mass Mountain Climb

Perhaps the writer can do no better at this point than to describe in some detail a "mass mountain climb" which it was his good fortune to set going in the summer of 1912, and to assist in sustaining and developing during a period of twenty-five years. This great community trek is known as the Timpanogos Hike, and now draws more than ten thousand mountain lovers into a happy throng for a two day outing every summer at Aspen Grove,

near Provo, Utah. The favorable conditions surrounding the inception and development of the unique festival included first, an activity-minded University of some twelve hundred students which served as the organizing center; second, a wonderful mountain, fifteen miles distant, with unsurpassed attractions — giant cirques, a hundred waterfalls and numerous groves of aspen and fir trees; third, a city of fifteen thousand people with more or less common interests and ideals; and fourth, a score of surrounding towns and cities not unlike the University community.

This in general was the setting in which the great Timpanogos Hike began. Twenty-two people participated in the first outing. These were very loosely and informally organized into camping units. Since it required a full day of difficult mountain travel over drag-roads and trails to get bedding and equipment to Aspen Grove, where the climb began, an efficient transportation committee was necessary. Outside of this there was little organization.

One year later, however, when the "second annual Timpanogos Hike" was announced, sixty-five enthusiastic mountaineers responded. With the increase in numbers came the necessity for more complete systematization. Camping units of from ten to fifteen people were organized, each with a captain, a "captainess," cooks, wood-gatherers, fire-makers, etc.

With deliberate effort to build tradition about this annual outing, the management introduced the following features: bonfire program, a playful dance ritual, early morning music from an adjoining peak, "secret signs" and "mysterious" word symbols with definite implications for all who heard and understood.

The third annual mountain climb drew two hundred people. Somewhat more complete organization became necessary but nevertheless the principle of informality still prevailed. Responsibilities requiring special committees were those associated with the commissary, equipment, camp organization, camp sanitation, bonfire program, hiking plan, special features, fire-lighting ritual and provision for first aid. Some of these responsibilities were taken care of by individuals asked to serve as committees of one.

"With the return to simple life will come a new enthusiasm for the out-of-doors in all its aspects. It is probably safe to predict that we are about to experience a Renaissance in mass hiking. America is already on the move by automobile caravan. It may soon be moving en masse over mountain trails to undiscovered retreats where it can hear and feel the heart beat of reality and can gather strength from the everlasting hills."

These first three hikes set the tone and determined the social and cultural atmosphere of all subsequent mountain festivals. Devices used to establish this traditional spirit took the form of sentiments expressed through preliminary announcements, through publicity, and at bonfire entertainments; informal but effective chaperonage; hiking together; resting together; playing together; interesting lectures and stories along the trail and special features at the point of destination.

To prevent deviation from the established standards without evidence of regimentation, restraint or preaching, the hikers used sign language to "whip" any recalcitrant individual or group into line. For example, in the earlier climbs when a hiker showed signs of being offish or unsocial, because of fatigue or irritation, when he or she grumbled at the pace or lapsed into gloomy silence, his fellows would raise their finger signals high above their heads, and immediately complete rapport was reestablished. The unpleasant mood died in a laugh. Even tendencies to pair off were conquered with harmless but meaningful signals given in good spirit by those who felt that such display of devotion might offend the mountain gods!

The writer feels justified in calling attention to these features which appear to be necessary on large mass outings to preserve proper social attitudes and to forestall criticism. Leadership is responsible for cultural tone. This leadership must get its results through subtle suggestion. Its supervision must express itself through tradition and "setting" and not by direct admonition.

The Timpanogos Hike grew in numbers and increased in significance throughout the years, until at present it is unquestionably America's, if not the world's, greatest mass-mountain climb. It is conservatively estimated that fifteen thousand mountain lovers will participate in the Silver Anniversary festival to be staged next July.

These people will now go to Aspen Grove over a broad, well-graded government road; they will pitch their camps in a camp ground sanitary and inviting in every respect; they will assemble in the large hillside "Theater of the Pines" with a seating capacity of ten thousand, on the night before the actual climb begins, for two hours of ceremony, ritual and entertainment. They will be awakened at daybreak by music coming from Guide's Peak; after breakfast, they will begin the climb, moving like a two-mile-long Chinese serpent over a per-

fect government trail, through flower beds waist deep, under waterfalls, over ledges, across amphitheater floors, and finally up the Timpanagos "Glacier" to Monument Peak. Those who reach the peak will be presented with buttons.

This, then, is a brief description of one organized mass hike which has become a permanent part of a community recreation program and has stimulated the starting of other group mountain climbs throughout the Rocky Mountains. It was brought into being by the Recreation Department of Brigham Young University at Provo City, Utah, for the specific purpose of assembling large numbers of people of all ages in annual migrations to mountain shrines.

Other mass hikes might well be described in this article, especially the annual Mt. Nebo Hike staged by the people of Juab County, Utah, the yearly community climb to Mt. Hood in Oregon, and the large group outings conducted by the Recreation Department of the State University at Salt Lake City and the City Recreation Department of Ogden, Utah.

Along with the larger mass hikes are many smaller affairs such as moonlight climbs to nearby peaks, sunset hikes to lake-side and river-side retreats, sunrise walks, nature outings, and many of the standard hikes conducted by departments of community recreation throughout America.

America appears to be entering a new cycle of simple life. This is reflected in current trends in literature, in the drama, in moving pictures, in music, and in philosophy. Weary of artificiality and superficiality, great numbers of people are beginning again to seek fundamental values in wholesome and natural living, in spiritual verities, in fellowship, communion and in simple recreations.

RETREAT

There's nothing that I'd rather do
 Than walk a mile or two
 On quiet trails.
 A leafy canyon's just the place
 To have a winning race
 With nagging cares.
 I learn, in whispering forest ways,
 The meaning of the phrase,
 "The peace of God."

—Edith Piotrowski.

Increasing America's Recreation Facilities

PROJECTS for the construction or repair of facilities covering the whole gamut of American recreation are included in the 5,722 which come under the general Works Progress Administration heading, "Parks and Other Recreational Facilities."

Name your favorite recreation, and whether you are child or adult, it will be found that somewhere in the United States and probably close to you, WPA or its predecessors, the CWA and FERA, has constructed, repaired or improved facilities for your more complete enjoyment of it.

Only a casual survey of WPA records shows that its activities in providing more and better recreational facilities is a long one. It has constructed or repaired rifle, skeet, trap and pistol ranges; helped improve game preserves; constructed or repaired golf courses, swimming pools, wading pools and bathing beaches. It literally has created vast lakes and smaller ones for public enjoyment. Rodeo fields, soccer and football fields have been built and polo grounds repaired and improved. Hundreds of children's playgrounds have been constructed and their equipment of swings, see-saws, teeter-totters, climbing towers, slides, jungle gyms, installed. Croquet, badminton, handball, outdoor bowling, boxing and wrestling facilities have been provided for adults.

Fish hatcheries built by WPA are ready to loose fingerlings and larger fish in streams and lakes, some of which have been depoluted by WPA workmen. Baseball diamonds, athletic fields, tennis courts, sprinting and race tracks have been or are being constructed and repaired by the scores. New grandstands have been or are being built or old ones repaired. Gymnasiums have been constructed or repaired, together with many indoor and outdoor basketball courts. Amphitheaters and band shells have been or are being constructed. For the outdoor enthusiast hiking trails have been hewn out of forests and in

Everyone interested in the recreation movement recognizes the fact that the recreation facilities of the country have been greatly increased through the activities of WPA and other governmental agencies. Just how extensive the new construction and improvements have been will, however, come as a surprise to many. We are indebted to the Information Service of the Works Progress Administration for this comprehensive and illuminating statement.

Michigan a mountain drive and a ski jump were provided through a WPA project.

Winter sports were not neglected. Ski, toboggan and sled slides were constructed or repaired, the famous run at Mt. Hovenburg, near Lake Placid having received a going over. Skating rinks have been built and snow shoe trails marked out.

Picnic grounds with stone fireplaces have been laid out and camping grounds cleared, in some cases for Boy Scouts and 4-H Clubs. Tourist camps and parking spaces were cleared. Swamps and other unsightly places have been converted into parks.

All this, of course, is quite apart from the activities of the Federal Theater Project, which employs about 10,000 professional theatrical people to provide through its various units throughout the country recreation for an uncounted but certainly a huge number of persons, a large part of whom otherwise would have no similar recreation.

It has been noted that there are 5,722 WPA projects devoted to parks and other recreation facilities. This does not take account of the work done under the predecessors of WPA, the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), under which there was an enormous amount of work completed.

Before the Days of WPA

Thus, before WPA entered the picture, the following had been completed:

	<i>Constructed</i>	<i>Improved</i>
Parks	882	2,639
Children's playgrounds	2,382	3,200
Athletic fields	4,126	3,537
Under the heading "Athletic Fields," were the following:		
	<i>Constructed</i>	<i>Improved</i>
Combination fields	204	1,001
Baseball	619	627
Football	211	235
Track	126	82
Tennis courts	1,910	1,187
Other courts	679	369
Other types of fields.....	357	36

For the better enjoyment by spectators of athletic and other spectacles, 618 grandstands of various kinds had been constructed and 460 repaired or improved.

The records show that 1,850 "recreation buildings" had been constructed and 2,947 repaired or improved. These included the following:

	<i>Constructed</i>	<i>Improved</i>
Auditoriums	106	322
Gymnasiums	310	332
Park buildings	497	665
Fair buildings
Combination community and recreation halls	417	455
Children's camp halls	24	256
Miscellaneous	238	178

In the way of increased or improved bathing facilities, the predecessors of WPA had accomplished the following:

	<i>Constructed</i>	<i>Improved</i>
Swimming pools	351	226
Wading pools	185	80
Bathing beaches	143	104
Bath houses	135	132

Opportunities for Swimming Provided

And WPA did not lag in the building or improvement of swimming pools, wading pools, bathing beaches and bath houses. Its records show that it engaged in 592 such projects in the District of Columbia and in all the states except four, distributed as follows:

Alabama, 18; Arizona, 4; Arkansas, 29; California, 14; Colorado, 12; Connecticut, 8; District of Columbia, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 8; Idaho, 8; Illinois, 36; Indiana, 10; Iowa, 8; Kansas, 16; Kentucky, 9; Louisiana, 4; Maine, 1; Maryland, 22; Michigan, 14; Minnesota, 23; Mississippi, 7; Missouri, 5; Montana, 8; Nebraska, 22; Nevada, 2; New Hampshire, 22; New Jersey, 14; New Mexico, 3; New York State, 6; New

York City, 79; North Carolina, 6; North Dakota, 3; Ohio, 25; Oklahoma, 19; Oregon, 4; Pennsylvania, 5; South Carolina, 15; South Dakota, 6; Tennessee, 5; Texas, 25; Utah, 18; Virginia, 2; Washington, 12; West Virginia, 16; Wisconsin, 15.

Other Facilities

In the realm of winter sports, the following had been accomplished by the predecessors of WPA:

	<i>Constructed</i>	<i>Improved</i>
Ski jumps	48	27
Skating rinks	887	203
Toboggan slides	53	30
Miscellaneous	12	9

There had been constructed or improved 37 rodeo grounds, 50 race tracks, 89 rifle ranges, 95 tourist parks and 677 miscellaneous recreation grounds.

Fish hatcheries to the number of 217 had been either constructed or repaired and improved; 465 fish ponds, and 70 game preserves.

The building or improvement of more than 600 golf courses in the forty-eight states and the District of Columbia has been a part of the program of WPA and its predecessors in the Work Program.

Many are the reasons why the construction or improvement of recreational facilities has had such an important part in the Work Program. The first has been that the men on relief rolls are largely suited to that type of work. Another is that when community funds run low or are ex-



A WPA project in Arizona where provision of swimming pools and of beaches represents a very important service

hausted, as was the situation in many places throughout the country at the time the Work Program was instituted, the construction or improvement—sometimes even ordinary upkeep—of recreational facilities was among the first of things to be neglected. When, therefore, they sponsored projects for recreational facilities, they found the WPA responsive because by means of such projects employment could be given the destitute men of the community who would not have been available for projects requiring workmen with a high degree of skill.

It is estimated that when the 5,722 recreational facility projects of the WPA have been completed they will have cost \$181,816,044, or about one-eighth of the cost of all projects selected for operation. Of this amount, \$20,192,153 will have been paid by the communities sponsoring the projects, while the Government will pay the balance, nearly all in the payment of wages of persons certified to have been in need of relief.

In Individual Cities

Instances galore might be cited where dumps have been converted into playground and swamps into parks. At Bartow, Florida, a series of Venetian canals was built in ten acres of land contributed by the city. In Salt Lake City, Utah, the old Yale gulch, once used as a dumping ground, was converted into Miller Park, so named in honor of the donor of the land.

In Canton, New York, the students and faculty of a school held an enthusiastic meeting and raised \$830 as a contribution toward a project to build an athletic field. Henry Faxon, private citizen, contributed a large tract of land at Quincy, Massachusetts, for the construction of a playground which he said he would beautify after its completion by the labor of men who had been on the relief rolls.

The city of Dayton sponsored projects for the conversion of two unsightly areas, one of them a 15-acre dump, into playgrounds and parks. There was hardly a city in the country that has not taken advantage of the opportunity of sponsoring projects for the improvement of existing park and playground systems and the construction of new facilities. The work done at Detroit, Michigan, was declared to have been a job of "municipal face lifting," while the work done in New York City has been notable for its extension of recreational facilities to scores of thousands of the city's poorer classes.

Minneapolis, Minnesota, had a \$3,000,000 job done on its park system and among other things placed on a permanent site in one of the parks the home in which the late Governor Floyd B. Olson was born. At Seattle, Washington, more than 1,000 men were employed from among those certified to be in need of relief in improving playgrounds and beaches, city parks and boulevards. Work done at Wilmington, North Carolina, enabled it to live up to its title of "The Port City of Progress and Pleasure." In Paducah, Kentucky, earth was pumped from the Ohio River bed to fill a large ravine and create a city park on the riverfront. And Chattanooga, Tennessee, sponsored park and improvement projects that cost half a million.

The Earl Faulkner Post of the American Legion, in Everett, Washington, acquired 185 acres of land four years ago for a municipal park and about \$11,000 was spent on its development before work was stopped for lack of funds. It was completed under a WPA project.

In Oklahoma, Lake Murray, the largest lake in the state, about 10,000 acres in area, was constructed by the erection of a dam, 150 feet wide and 950 feet long. Near Syracuse, New York, where there are great salt deposits, the overflow from the salt springs was impounded to form a lake, sand was distributed around the shores to make a beach, and now the whole community may have its salt water swim.

Devil's Den, a 3,600 acre tract in Washington, Arkansas, had long been known for its natural beauty, but its inaccessibility made it available for the recreation of a comparatively few. Under the Work Program roads were built to and in the Park, and a state game reserve and camp sites have been laid out for tourists.

Better access was similarly provided for Mt. Hood, in Oregon, 152 men having been employed for approximately eighteen months to make its approaches better for the thousands of tourists who visit there, winter and summer.

In the building of a golf course at Reno, Nevada, the question of a proper water supply for the greens became moot, with the result that the engineers drilled to find water at 415 feet and then erected a reservoir to supply the needs of the 180 acre tract.

One of the finest baseball parks in Kansas was constructed at Manhattan to house the local team in the Ban Johnson League. This league is an

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A Christmas Miracle

By A. D. ZANZIG
National Recreation Association

SINCE CHRISTMAS is a time for remembrances of past holiday seasons as well as for being radiantly alive to the present one, I would like to tell what happened three years ago in a large eastern city. It is the story of a kind of Christmas miracle that could easily be brought to pass, and also to stay, in any city, and at other times in the year as well as at Christmas time.

Among the very large number of recreation centers in that city, and settlements, orphanages and other places where children gathered in their spare time, there must have been a few in which there was some good music now and then. Every child in the city was taught music every day in the public schools. But a music committee that had recently been formed to help further the musical possibilities in those after-school centers was very dissatisfied with what they found in them.

Without Benefit of Spirit

Such singing as they heard was not only crude and awfully hard on young throats. Crudeness, when the thing expressed has any real love in it and some generous impulse, something true and vital to the real life of the individual, is immensely more to be valued than a polished performance without these. But this singing seemed to lack all personal quality and all real enjoyment, as though singing were nothing more than an activity of the mouth and throat muscles. *Home On the Range*, for example, was bellowed in a way that would certainly have amazed if not enraged the cattle that were accustomed to being quieted by it! And one hesitates to think of what the more intelligent animal, the cowboy's horse, might have done under the circumstances! It might have been the slow-swinging gait of a horse ambling along on a far trail, by "the light of the glittering stars" perhaps, as the words go, that first gave this song its easy flowing rhythm. At any rate, it would be only good horse sense to sing it smoothly and with a slow-swinging flow of words and melody.

How does so wistful a song, or any other song, get to be sung so crassly and without meaning? This the committee asked. Had the children been

"pepped up" many times and never recovered from it? It is true that if singing is not of

itself alive with a real love of it, with some soul-inviting sense of mood and meaning, be it merry, sentimental or whatever you wish, and with some degree of our natural pleasure in harmonious sounds and free-flowing rhythms, one way to keep it going is to pump a lot of muscular energy into it, which is what is often meant by "pepping it up." The result would be such as has been described.

Another explanation is that the children were letting out energies pent up by the demands and suppressions, often contrary even when not intended to be so, of the homes and schools and possibly of the recreation centers also. In some instances there seemed to be unrestrained rebellion in their singing, as though it were giving them a rare chance to fling out, all of them at once, their resentment against convention, ugliness, crowding, unsympathetic and nagging parents, dull teaching and perhaps dull recreation leadership also. This might have been true even if they were not conscious of its being so. And what a rare sense of power and freedom many of them must have had in taking part in so reckless, uncontrolled and all-pervading a racket!

Life Will Find a Way

After all, life is a very expansive thing. From the almost ceaselessly active two-year-old, trying all things, or his slightly older brother forever asking questions, to the astronomer trying to project his vision farther out into the universe; or from the city child loosed on a flower-trimmed meadow or among some boats, or dreaming of heroic deeds, to a deaf, sorrow-stricken Beethoven writing the gayest of all symphonies, the Seventh, or the heaven-scaling Ninth, life is forever under an urge to realize itself in some way or other. It is especially expansive in the young child. It is said, therefore, that he is by nature an artist. His impulses to express are as strong as the artist's, his imagination as active and ready to create, and his tendency as great to give himself completely and self-forgetfully to that which answers his heart's

desire. But if these urges of life are thwarted again and again or rarely or never given good opportunity, it will break out in some sort of rebellion or be cowed into blank timidity, if not into illness. Healthy, free-spirited children who have found the sorts of every-day experiences that rightfully belong to them do not sing as those children did.

But since even that singing is an outlet and a much less harmful one than is many another common outlet, let us be thankful for it, even at its worst. We shall not scorn it or combat it directly, but try in other ways to make the most of it. As recreation leaders, however, whose main purpose it is to provide good opportunities for people to find out what life can be at its best, we cannot be content with such singing.

A Glamorous Way

There was, the committee found, also a great deal of pseudo-sophisticated singing of the current popular songs. One sometimes hardly knew whether to laugh or cry over the adult-like antics and hard-boiled crooning and tap dancing of little children from five or six to ten years of age. In a number of movie theaters "amateur hours" were being run off in which children, alone or in groups, appeared in such singing and dancing. "You Try Somebody Else, I'll Try Somebody Else," was one of the most popular songs. A child, having sung it through in that hard, cynical-sounding voice which children put on when they imitate a movie or radio "blues singer," would then break into tap dancing and general wriggling while the pianist put in all the extra patter. The audience would laugh and applaud vigorously, making her do it all over again, as though they were bent on hardening her as much as possible and making sure that she would never respond to anything wholesome, lovely and really child-like again.

Now, when one compares the color, glamour and high degree of social prestige of the movie theater with the lowly plainness of the recreation center, it is easy to imagine the attitude of those children toward the idea of singing good songs simply, with real, child-like enthusiasm and without self-display, in those centers. In one Neighborhood House where a crowd of children and

adults was gathered for a monthly program, which was entirely of short, slapstick movies, and where an attempt at some good general singing was to be made, one of the little movie amateurs (heaven save the word!) put the House in its place in no uncertain terms. The woman in charge of the program had asked the visiting music leader whether he wouldn't like to have sing alone a boy who had been "making a hit around the neighborhood." She sent another boy to find him in the back of the room and ask him to come forward to see her about singing. The answer brought back by the messenger was, "He said he wouldn't give dis place a break." He wouldn't sing even a "hit" song in that place! Talk about professional snobbery! This lad was crusty even before he was half-baked. And unless a youngster in this state undergoes some sweetening and much absorption of the indispensable fruits of the spirit, and that very soon, certain ingredients required by nature for all good human cakes will never be in him and he will be tragically unattractive to himself as well as to other people.

All the children, snobbish or not, who had got so thoroughly taken in by the so-called "hot" stuff of the adult show seemed certainly to be hardening themselves against things essential to their inner growth. This was not because the songs were popular ones, though most of these are not suited to children because of their adult emotion, if for no other reason. It was because of the ones chosen or the lack of choice, the way they were sung and the conditions under which they were sung.

The Committee Finds a Way

What could the committee members, bent on improving the situation, do? How could they counteract the influences at work? How introduce the enjoyable singing of good songs in places where there had been no music at all. These were some of the problems they faced.

The committee decided that a principal cause of the poor state of affairs was the fact that all the social prestige, of which these children knew, was on the side of that kind of song and that kind of singing. One thing to do, then was, to make it possible for the children to discover and enjoy a fine kind of social prestige for good songs and

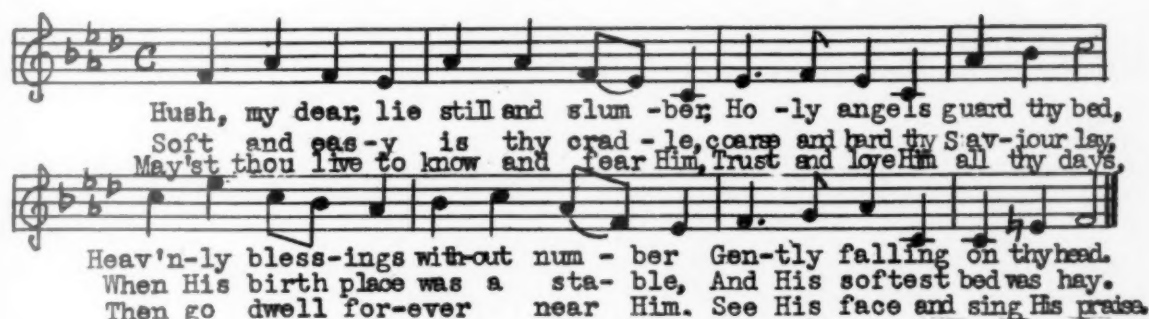
"Everyone is born to love beauty just as everyone is born to love song. Ever since the world began people have been creating what to them is beautiful. Some can create beautiful things more easily than others, but all can enjoy them. We are all artists." — Elizabeth Wells Robertson, National Chairman of Art, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

good singing. So, it being mid-October, a plan was drawn for a Christmas festival in which children in all the centers were to be invited to sing. The festival was to take place in the city's Art Museum; and the fine orchestra of a prominent conservatory was to play the accompaniments. This was to be an affair of the city, not of some neighborhood movie theater, and it would be recognized as such by many people, including the newspaper editors and, incidentally, the children.

The interest of the executives of the various centers was easily won. Since only a very few centers had any music leaders, and there were no funds for engaging any more, an appeal for volunteer leaders was made before the members of a

nette, *Isabella*, which can certainly recapture the spirit of childhood if any song can; and one of the most beautiful of all, the Catalonian *Christmas Rose* from Alfred Swan's *Songs of Many Lands*, published by Enoch. The Italian carol that the Abruzzi mountaineers sing was also among them, the one that suggested to Handel the melody of the aria, "He shall feed His flock," from the universally loved oratorio, *The Messiah*. This carol is called *Pastorale*, I think, and is in Eduardo Marzo's *Fifty Christmas Carols*, a fine collection published by G. Schirmer, Inc. There was another carol from that collection and also the following one from our own Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Hush, My Dear



Hush, my dear, lie still and slum - ber; Ho - ly an - gels guard thy bed,
Soft and eas - y is thy crad - le, coar - se and hard thy Sav - iour lay,
May'st thou live to know and fear Him, Trust and love Him all thy days,
Heav'n - ly bless - ings with - out num - ber Gen - tly fall - ing on thy head,
When His birth place was a sta - ble, And His softest bed was hay,
Then go dwell for - ever near Him. See His face and sing His praise.

An accompaniment for this one is in a collection of Mountain Songs entitled *Devil's Ditties* compiled by Jean Thomas

fine chorus and before a large group of music lovers gathered for an evening of music at the spacious home of the chairman of the committee. The appeal was simply for help only once or twice a week during the coming two months in enabling groups of children to learn some delightful carols. A Christmas present to the children, it was called. Twenty good musical people volunteered, and a series of sessions was held for them in one of the recreation centers the very next week, during which they learned the carols thoroughly and discussed and demonstrated presentation and uses of them.

Christmas at Work

In the meantime a schedule of rehearsal times for the still unformed groups of children in the various centers was arranged. Over seven hundred children in thirty-two centers were soon learning some of the most delightful old carols in the world, including the French *Bring a Torch, Jean-*

In addition, there were the more familiar carols which the children had learned in school, including the jolly "Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly," and the English *Wassailing Song* commencing, "Here we come a-wassailing." But for closing the program there was the grand, simple chorale, "Good News from Heaven," sung in unison and with its stirring orchestral accompaniment, from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. And for closing the first half of the program, just before a short old English *Christmasse Masque* was to be given, the glorious but also very simple *Christmas Song* derived by Gustav Holst from an old English carol was learned.

It was well to include some school-learned carols in order to provide for a carry-over of school music into the life outside. The more and better the music taught in schools, the more occasion there is for arranging such situations in which to use it entirely outside of school. It was

(Continued on page 468)

Handicraft Arts

in the

Public Recreation Program

By MINNETTE B. SPECTOR

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ALL THROUGH the ages the arts and crafts have been the method for expressing men's feelings and have really expressed the culture of the people. In our own early American arts we find there was always great interest in a wide range of crafts as expressed in Early American glass, in decorative metal work, in needle craft, pewter, hand block printing, wood and stone carving and many others. Today we note an amazing revival of interest in all these crafts. Why? Simply that people like to work with their hands—like to create something in their minds and then with their own hands turn it into a concrete reality.

The handicraft arts in the recreation department program are doing much to bring beauty into our daily lives. Self-expression and beauty—two extremely important factors in a recreation activity program—are basic in this program.

The handicraft arts in our recreation department program play a very important role in both children's and adults' classes. In our children's craft classes we seek to give ample opportunity for self-expression and to encourage creative efforts. An attempt is made to choose projects that are interesting, that are within the limits of various age abilities, and that yield useful and attractive articles. Every effort is made to acquaint the children with a variety of materials and to teach them the use of tools. Emphasis is placed not only on types of handicraft that are constructive, creative and recreational in nature, but also on crafts that have real educational and carry-over value. For reasons of economy we encourage the use of very inexpensive materials. Many desirable products are created by children from scrap materials, and we have found that children place greater value on simple projects which they make themselves. In our summer handicraft arts program we have emphasized products made of no cost

materials—articles made of cones, pine needle basketry, tin can projects, shell novelties, woven cellophane belts, puppets, boxes made of cardboard, and other miscellaneous articles.

Handicraft for Adults

Interest in handicraft is developing with amazing rapidity among adults. We find this especially true in our fifty-four adult handicraft classes which total a weekly attendance of 2,000 intensely interested individuals. In order to conduct such a large adult handicraft program with a special instructor in charge of each class, it has been necessary to place these classes on a self-sustaining basis. We are able to do this by purchasing all craft materials at wholesale prices. These materials are stored in our central handicraft workshop for resale to patrons at a very small profit—just enough to enable us to pay the salary of the instructor. Each craft instructor is personally charged with materials secured, and receipts are issued to patrons purchasing supplies. Sales are carefully recorded in receipt stub books and returned with funds to the handicraft workshop each week. All moneys and receipts are then turned in to our central office for rechecking and careful auditing. In this way we are able to keep an accurate check on sales and profits and to know if this activity is really self-sustaining. Some classes yield sufficient profits to enable us to carry on adult classes in under-privileged districts where complete self-sustainment is not possible.

In our adult program, as well as in the chil-

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Are you one of those who believe with Santayana that the value of art lies in making people happy? If you do, you will not miss this article!

Rural America's "March of Time"

RURAL AMERICA has been quietly and unobtrusively conducting its own "March of Time" program—and on a nation-wide scale. From the Atlantic to the Pacific and from North Dakota to Texas there have been produced scores of pageants, some historical, some educational, some recreational, some a combination of history, recreation and education, but all of them red-letter events in the lives of the participants and spectators.

Out in California an ambitious pageant "The Spirit of California," in ten episodes and lasting all day, was put on under the Home Department of the Fresno County Farm Bureau. First came Balboa, then Indians, the Padres, the Spaniards and the Chinese who helped build the railroad. After these five episodes of song and dance and pantomime, explained in advance by one of the women, two hours were allowed for picnic lunches. Then the last five episodes were given. These included episodes concerning the covered wagon, days of '49, the "gay 90's" and power bringing fertility to the San Joaquin Valley. The last episode depicted Home Demonstration work coming to the counties. All the sixteen centers in the county were represented in the pageant, with 200 in the cast and over 700 spectators.

The history of another part of the country was told in pageant form by 4-H club boys and girls in Muskegon County, Michigan. The report of the County Agricultural Agent reveals that "the pageant started with chaos, which was quite adequately portrayed behind the scenes on the opening night. The narrative and scenes led up through the cave dwellers to the Indians and then to scenes

portraying episodes in the early history of the territory and state."

The drama of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, the physician who was convicted of conspiracy in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, was produced at the Charles County Fair. The story is little known afieid, but is one of the best known in Charles



Courtesy Prairie Farmer

Folk dancers in costume play their part most effectively in many rural pageants

County, Maryland, where the doctor lived. The play was a part of the annual Tobacco Festival.

Down in Cheyenne County, Kansas, there was held a Golden Jubilee at Bird City lasting for three days. Leading farmers and business men cooperated, and had you gone to Bird City in advance you would have been startled by seeing roughly-bearded men, and women in old-fashioned sunbonnets and dresses—a publicity stunt for the Jubilee. A sod house was built and relics of "settler" days put on display inside. Each morning for three days a big parade was held with a

mile and a half of floats. There were Civil War cavalry, a Civil War General, Scouts, Spaniards, Cheyenne Indians, twelve wagons in a train, a prairie schooner, cowboys, floats for the wheat queen, belles of the '90's, Mothers' Circle and for a barroom of ancient vintage. A rodeo every afternoon, two historical pageants, dances and other entertainment filled the three days to the brim. The farmers played a large part in the celebration, building the sod hut, holding two places on the general committee, managing the big parades through the Farm Bureau Executive Board, and helping in many other important capacities.

The 4-H Club members of Baraga County, Michigan, under the leadership of the county agricultural agent, staged a pageant giving the history of Baraga County from the time of the Indians to the present and as a climax presenting a scene depicting 4-H Club work. The agent says, "The pageant brought the local leaders of the county into closer touch with one another than they had been at any time previously. . . . This in itself had a worthwhile effect on the county 4-H Club program."

A long leap will take us to Iowa where a Keokuk County rural group put on the outstanding event of the Achievement Day program—"The Story of Wheat," read by a local woman and illustrated by living posed pictures for which piano music provided a dreamy background. The first picture was a shock of wheat, the next, "The Sower," by Millet. Then quickly followed "Behind the Plow," by Kemp-Welch, "Maiden with a Hand Sickle," "Two Men with Cradles," "The Gleaners," by Millet, and many other paintings, old and new, of man and wheat. The last picture linked the story of wheat with the "bread lessons" in the nutrition project for 4-H girls and home project women, and showed a 4-H Club girl in uniform presenting a loaf of bread to a home project chairman.

"Johnny Appleseed and Paul Bunyan" was the title of a pageant put on under the united efforts of Monadnock Region Association and the Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, Agricultural Agent. It was a main event at the second annual Apple Blossom Festival held at Hilton.

Another Paul Bunyan step brings us to Texas to a pioneer

program for which the first school teacher of the county told of old times and cowboys sang around a dim, flickering camp fire. County and district brands were drawn and it was explained how the brands were marked with legends and changed by cattle thieves. Next came a pioneer home scene and "after a full day of work many cowboys rode twenty miles to the old barn to make merry at a square dance," continued the reader, as the curtain was pulled to show four couples, dressed in the clothes of the '90's, starting the square dances and "the little brown jug." This program was sponsored by the Collinsworth County Home Demonstration Council.

Different from all others was the Sedgwick County pageant. The county health champions were the Prince and Princess of Health; the county music champion was the Princess of Music, and the high-scoring girl in the state music contest was her attendant. High-scoring individuals in health also attended the Prince and Princess of Health. The scene of the pageant was laid in the Kingdom of Happiness and involved a battle between the army of Poor Health and the army of Good Health. A procession with the Prince and Princess and a special entertainment by the Princess of Music, a grand march and folk games completed the program.

The "Heritage of the Flag," a pageant put on by the Napa County, California, Farm Home Department groups, was composed of a number of episodes, all rehearsed separately but fitting into the theme without any joint rehearsal. The first episode consisted of Early American Neighborly Chats by various local individuals, then followed a glimpse of "Tulip Land," a Swedish festival, a "Cotter's Saturday Night," an Italian street scene and a Danish folk dance. George and Martha Washington, seated at the side, reviewed the nations. The pageant was a part of a county-wide Hi Jinx Day, and in addition to the pageant games and folk dances, and picnic lunches were main events.

Calvert County, Maryland, put on a somewhat similar pageant "Around the World with Song and Dance." Eleven countries were presented and 224 children took part. This pageant was an outgrowth of the work given by Miss Ethel Bowers of the National Recreation Association, at the rec-

These excerpts have been taken from the 1935 annual reports of State and County Extension Agents and were compiled in a statement prepared by the Extension Studies and Training Section, Division of Cooperative Extension, United States Department of Agriculture. A number of the themes may be adapted for use in a variety of recreational situations and there are many ideas to be had from the plans presented here.

recreation institute and to individual 4-H clubs, and was produced under the direction of the County Home Demonstration Agent assisted by teachers and leaders. Reverberations of the pageant were reported in an increased request for more dances, a school playlet, and club meetings on foreign relationships.

In New Hampshire, the Rural Recreation Specialist reports a series of pageants depicting America's Heritage in the Arts, given at the Arts and Crafts League Fair. Each day two counties joined to put on a pageant. The contribution of the Indian, Greek, Roumanian, Pole, English and early American were depicted in song, dance and pantomime.

Twenty-five short episodes in rapid sequence, made possible by the use of two stages used alternately, portrayed the activities of the Black Hawk County, Iowa, 4-H Clubs. A few of the episodes of the pageant included: A lesson on proper shoes, how to keep milk clean, a girls' rally day, public speaking and club management, and 4-H Club boys learning to judge stock and grain. A reader gave a short description of the activity while the boys and girls acted it out. As a finale the participants stood in the form of a 4-H leaf clover while a leader told of 4-H Club aims and ideals.

The first Clay County, Minnesota, 4-H Club pageant was based on the story of the progress of 4-H Club work, starting with the Putnam Act in 1909, which made such clubs possible, and coming down to present day activities. A fitting conclusion was a candle lighting ceremony in which the clubs were arranged as a wheel. The Spirit of Cooperation stood at the hub and gave a candle to the new county agent who passed it to other leaders in the hub, then to junior leaders and 4-H Club members. Over 400 took part in the ceremony.

"Forward Agriculture" was the sequel to "Which Way Agriculture," the 1934 pageant, and depicted the activities of rural Washington County, Ohio, during 1935. The pageant was written by the extension agents and was built about the farm, home and community which were represented on three floats. The floats which were drawn up before the grandstands provided a background for citizenship. A loud speaker enabled the audience to hear the voices of the readers. Over 600 club members marched in the parade and there were a number of other floats which constituted episodes in the pageant.

Every year a Forest Festival is held in Randolph County, West Virginia, as the climax of the year's work. The entire section of the state cooperates in its production as well as many private and public organizations including the State Department of Agriculture and National Forestry Department. There is a parade of two miles long, the crowning of a Princess, who, with her attendants, is selected from the whole state, wood-chopping, angling and shooting contests, wild life exhibits and this year a horse show was added. There are tours through the National Forest and everything possible is done to make the event as gala an affair as possible.

The report of the Pennsylvania Rural Sociologist summarized the contribution of this form of drama not only in Pennsylvania but also in many of the other states and counties using it. He says: "Pageantry, ordinarily considered to be beyond the range of rural folk, has this past year been shown to be a useful and practical feature in the recreational program. Pageantry in 1935 reached eleven counties. The pageants were produced in the main by 4-H Club groups and rural organizations, affording the rural leader an opportunity to do something tangible, to do it on his own responsibility and with a freedom to develop his part as much as ability and creative talent allow. It also gives an opportunity for all the members of the organization in a county to join hands in one major demonstration representative of their work."

Preceding its annual conference held in August, 1936, the American Country Life Association sent a questionnaire to 1400 young people from fifteen to twenty-nine years of age to secure material to serve as a basis for the discussion of the topic "Knowing Community Needs for Program Planning." The replies received showed that village youth favored recreation more than farm or city young people, and girls listed it more frequently than boys. As to the content of the community program—each informant gave three needs—recreational listings were highest with twenty-seven per cent of the total. Other leisure time activities included handcraft, plays, reading and music, and came second. Educational affairs followed with a ratio of one in five in the listings. Farm people again seemed less interested than city or village youth in having recreational and educational activities on the local program, and boys were less interested than girls.

Recreational Features of Parks

CINCINNATI, because of its somewhat unusual recreational set up, was a fitting place for holding a convention, such as that of the American Institute of Park Executives. Three separate boards function under the city manager plan—the School Board, the Park Board and the Recreation Commission. Each has responsibility for certain phases of recreational activities and all work together in perfect harmony. The Recreation Commission leases about half of the school property for its own use when not used by the schools, and a number of the park facilities are administered by the Commission.

Among the leaders of the convention were Conrad L. Wirth, Assistant Director, National Park Service, W. A. Stinchcomb, Director, Cleveland Metropolitan Park District, H. D. Taylor of the National Forests and others, some of whom were related to the local park service.

Mr. Wirth stated that recreation was the principle of all park planning. He defined recreation as the use of leisure time and referred mainly to such activities as hiking, riding and picnicking. National parks, according to Mr. Wirth, are places of importance from the scenic, historical, geological or archaeological viewpoint, and the National Park Service was established to maintain parks for future as well as present uses. Referring to state parks he urged that such be set aside for scenic values and mass recreation. He urged municipal departments to increase appreciation of nature through the public schools, emphasizing that these park facilities were for the basic purpose of public recreation. The automobile and airplane have removed all restrictions of distance in connection with the appreciation of scenic beauty and made possible a great increase in family and small group recreation.

The responsibility of the National Park Service in its relation to other bodies called for joint planning and sound, long range planning. He cautioned against the danger of overdevelopment of park areas as well as underdevelopment. He said that some sort of permanent CCC was necessary. He described the provisions of an Act proposed

E. C. Worman of the National Recreation Association, who attended the annual convention of the American Institute of Park Executives which was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 21-23, has given us a few of his impressions of the meetings. Chief among these was the emphasis on the recreational side of park service which characterized all of the speeches.

to Congress to allow study of park facilities in states and to authorize joint state agreements.

Mr. Stinchcomb outlined the history of the Park District Law in Ohio, stating that it arose from the necessity of developing parks beyond municipal boundaries. The first county park law which was passed about 1915 was thrown out by the courts but shortly after the state Constitution was rewritten and a conservation clause included for conservation districts. The Park District Law is based on this conservation clause and allows districts to be established by the Probate Court which may be as large as the people desire even going beyond county boundaries. Such park districts are controlled by a commission appointed by the Probate Judge with three members on staggered three year terms with no compensation and subject to removal by the courts. Their powers do not include large bond issues but do include a special tax levy, and they have the power to acquire land and the right of eminent domain and can contract with local park groups.

The speaker referred to some of the features of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park and especially recited its cooperation with the Nature History Museums in the joint employment of a naturalist and the conduct of two field museums and five nature trails with lectures at council rings in the park and before groups during the winter. He emphasized the statement that the conservation of natural resources includes the preservation and use of all in nature that makes for social and cultural benefit.

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WORLD AT PLAY

Winter Sports in New England

SNOW trains operated by the four New England railroads from January 1 to March 1, 1936, carried 36,472 passengers to the New England winter sports area. In quoting these figures, William A. Barron, Chairman of the New England Councils recreation committee, said: "When the Council launched its campaign against overemphasis on spectator snow sports such as professional ski jumping 10 years ago and urged participants' sports, skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, etc., there were few communities prepared to handle any real volume of winter sports participants. Through the years the movement has won its way. Ski-tows have been constructed, hotels and inns have seen the wisdom of remaining open, and facilities have been developed until today New England has a recreational asset in its snow-time months worth many millions of dollars to these six states."

Recreation in Hawaii

H I L O, Hawaii, is building a \$30,000 community recreation building. A \$20,000 center is being constructed in Kaunakakai, Molokai, while on Oahu the plantations are erecting two buildings at a cost of \$62,000.

Burdick Park in Baltimore

B A L T I M O R E, Maryland, is to have a park dedicated to the memory of the late William Burdick and in his honor to be known as Burdick Park. The City Council, in taking action which made this possible, passed a resolution in recognition of Dr. Burdick's services to the people of Baltimore. The resolution stated that Dr. Burdick as the director of the Public Athletic League and later the Playground Athletic League from 1911 until his death in 1935, "recognized the value and desirability of public parks and playgrounds for men and women of all ages for athletic and recreational activities, and to this end devoted the greater part of his life in emphasizing the importance of a play program under trained leadership."

The resolution further took cognizance of Dr. Burdick's contribution to the field of physical education.

"In the death of Dr. William Burdick," states the resolution, "the city of Baltimore has lost one of its most progressive and kindly citizens whose memory will live always in the people of Baltimore City and the parks and playgrounds of the city which he fostered and promoted with untiring zeal. As a fitting tribute to him, the park property situated on Glenmore Avenue between the Harford and Belair Roads and formerly called Glenmore Park shall hereafter be known as Burdick Park."

On Tour for Recreation

A group of thirty-five young leaders from Victoria, Vancouver and Kamloops Recreational Centers went "on tour" for six days last summer as a part of the endeavor of the Department of Education, British Columbia, Canada, to arouse interest in recreation and physical education. They journeyed in a chartered bus, taking their own camp, cooking and athletic equipment with them. At each of the six towns visited one or more programs were presented, sometimes in open fields, sometimes in the Community Hall or on school grounds. The program consisted of exercises, tumbling, acrobatics, parallel bar work, fencing, rhythmic dancing, pyramids, high vaulting, "golden statues," and a few comic skits. Some 6,000 spectators attended the programs, a large number considering the size of the towns which were visited. The Department of Recreational and Physical Education conducts Provincial Recreation Centers for young adults and is endeavoring under Ian Eisenhardt, Provincial Director, to have the various cities and towns establish supervised playgrounds for children. Three cities did so last summer.

"Streamlined" Shakespeare

AT the Great Lakes Exposition one of the attractions of the midway was the replica of the old Globe Theater of London where Shakes-

peare's plays were presented. Each day in the Cleveland theater six Shakespearean plays were presented, their playing time averaging forty-four minutes. Thomas W. Stevens, well known pageant director, and B. Iden Payne, director of the Shakespeare Memorial Theater at Stratford-on-Avon, were responsible for the abridged editions of the plays which were used. Many people flocked to the performances.

The Pacific Crest Trail—Along the Gargantuan backbone of the West—the Cascades, Sierra Nevada and Desert Mountains—a continuous trail 2,300 miles long extending from the Canadian border to Mexico and running just below the crest of the ranges has just been completed through the hooking up of regional trails. It would take a sturdy traveler, knapsack on back, some eight months to traverse this Pacific Crest Trail, and he would not be able to accomplish this feat in one year, for so high is the trail in some spots that it is passable for only a short time each year. The hiker need not fear that the "westward tide" will eventually take away this trail, for all but 175 miles of it lies within the borders of twenty national forests and five national parks, and some of the small remaining total is in state parks. This gigantic hook-up of local trails is due to the efforts of Clinton C. Clark of Pasadena who aroused interest, formed an association and with the aid of the government completed the trail. And in so doing this wilderness enthusiast accomplished the aims of his organization: "To maintain and defend for the benefit and enjoyment of nature lovers the Pacific Crest Trail system as a primitive wilderness pathway in an environment of solitude, free from the sights and sounds of a mechanically disturbed nature." For the benefit of the hiker he has prepared a detailed booklet for the entire trail, giving location of shelters, places where food may be obtained and pointing out places of interest along the way. The Boy Scouts already use the trail for advanced camping and the Y.M.C.A. has explored the trail from Mexico to Tahoe and will continue along it this summer with relay teams, studying flora and fauna enroute.

Child Gardeners Receive Awards—Happy indeed were the youthful gardeners of New York City to whom prizes and medals were awarded in September by Mrs. James Roosevelt, mother of the President. The gardens are maintained under

the auspices of the New York Plant and Flower Guild of which Mrs. Roosevelt is president, and during the summer more than 1,000 children of seventeen nationalities cultivated 5' by 10' plots, producing quantities of both flowers and vegetables. Prizes were awarded for the best notebook on gardens and the best poem, while medals were given for the prize gardens. Three mothers who for twenty years have been assisting in the garden program received gold medals.

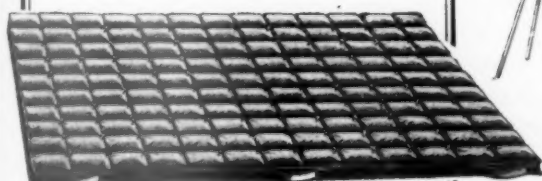
Amateur Sports in St. Paul—In St. Paul, Minnesota, amateur sports have reached such a high point in organization that an independent team in any branch of athletics is a rarity, and teams in all sports are now so numerous that practically any individual may find a team on which to play. The general plan followed, according to Gerald M. Flathman, Director of Municipal Athletics, has been to have representatives of the various teams or leagues concerned elect a board of directors composed of well known people who are interested in the program and who are not affiliated with any competing group. This board aids in laying down rules and regulations and formulating policies, and acts as a grievance committee. The Playground Department has sought the cooperation of all other agencies operating athletics with the result that these groups are affiliated with municipal leagues and for the most part are operating under municipal rules and regulations.

Education and Recreation in Denmark—During the week of the Third International Conference on Social work in London, England, July 12th to 18th, 1936, Oluf J. Skjerbaek, Chief State Inspector of Child Welfare in Copenhagen, presented a paper on Education and Recreation in Denmark. There was discussion of summer excursions of city school children to the country; school camps; the decline of traditional forms of recreation, such as harvest festivals; colony gardens—small lots of land rented in the city, where city workers may, in their spare time, recapture some of the rural delights of their early lives. There was also consideration of roaming over the country either afoot or on a bicycle.—From *Public Welfare News*, August 1936.

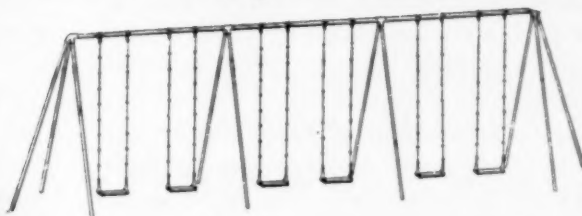
In Pontiac—The Kiwanis Club of Pontiac, Michigan, has given the city two wading pools. The Club has also adopted a five year program

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involving contributions of \$500 a year for the development of the city's playgrounds.

A Large Recreation Center for Los Angeles

—As the final step in the transfer of a thirty acre playground site to the city from the Anita M. Baldwin Estate, a deed to the property has been turned over to the Los Angeles, California, Playground and Recreation Department. It will be the city's largest recreation center and will provide a sports field for the new city high school which, according to present plans, will adjoin it on the east. Plans for the complete development of the area as funds become available call for a football field, a municipal baseball park, a battery of tennis courts, a swimming pool, a community club house and gymnasium, game courts of many kinds, an archery range, and small children's play areas.

Romance of Recreation—The seventh annual playground pageant presented by the playgrounds of Lansing, Michigan, traced the history

of Michigan's activities in recreation, especially those of Lansing, from the time of the Indians down to the present. The pageant provided one of the most colorful spectacles ever witnessed in Lansing. There were 750 people in the cast including children from all of the city playgrounds and members of civic and social organizations.

The "Dream Parade"—The 1936 playground pageant presented by the Park Department of Minneapolis, Minnesota, was the "Dream Parade" in which 1,500 children and adults took part. Twenty thousand people saw this unusually beautiful spectacle which was directed by Mrs. Alice Dietz of the Park Board staff.

Drama in Berkeley—The Berkeley, California, Community Players, sponsored by the Recreation Department, during 1935 and 1936 have been continuously active in presenting plays to the public. The following plays were given during the season: "The Marriage of Figaro" (five productions); "The Princess Who Was

Queer" (four performances); "The Contrast," an early American comedy of manners (four productions); "The Magic Forest" (three performances), and Shakespeare's "Winter's Tale" (five performances). In addition, the Players had an important part in the presentation of "The Feast of Yuletide," a Christmas pageant which last year was given by a cast of over 850 children and adults, under the direction of F. T. Kebely, director of the Community Players. Six thousand people saw the performance in the men's gymnasium at the University of California. Mr. Kebely also directed a mammoth pageant, "Berkeley's Answer," which depicted the work of the various social agencies. In addition to directing the pageant given in connection with the Community Chest drive, Mr. Kebely and his assistants prepared several one-act plays demonstrating Community Chest work which were presented before luncheon clubs and other community groups. Another activity of the Players was the fourth annual drama tournament in which fourteen groups competed for the Lester Hink drama cup. The prize-winning play, "Torches," produced by the Littlest Theater, was sent to San Francisco where it won first place in the North California drama tournament.

A Novel Event in Akron—What is believed to be the first bicycle hill climb to be held was staged on September 12th in Akron, Ohio, on the city owned Sport Hill, site of the soap box derby sponsored last summer by the Recreation Commission and a local newspaper. Over 200 boys and girls, divided into age classification, participated in this hill climbing event.

Ann Arbor's Water Carnival—In August, Ann Arbor, Michigan, held a water carnival, the second major program undertaken during the summer, the first being a pageant which attracted a crowd of 4,000 people. Old-fashioned bathing costumes and the latest in swimming suits made their appearance at the carnival, and among the novelties of the program were a human seal, and a dragon and sea serpent devised by the children.

Activities in Monroe, Louisiana—Last summer Monroe, Louisiana, conducted eight playgrounds. A popular feature of the program was softball which was played by all of the midget, junior and senior boys. Through the courtesy of the Commissioner of Finance and Utilities street

cars and buses were made available for transporting the softball teams from one playground to another.

Watertown's Mother Goose Festival—Seven thousand people attended the Mother Goose festival, held in the City Park of Watertown, New York, in which 240 boys and girls in costume took part. The theme of the festival was taken from the book "Mother Goose May Day," by Wills and Turner. A Mother Goose story book 16 feet high was erected in the center of the stage, on the right of which was a huge shoe for the old woman who lived in a shoe. On the left was a throne for the king and queen. The entire stage was encircled by six May poles with brilliant colored streamers.

Safety Activities in Detroit—

"Stop, Look and Listen, before you cross the street. Use your eyes; use your ears, *Then* use your feet."

This was the rhyme chanted by Detroit's playground children last summer as a part of the safety program conducted by the Recreation Department. Each day, through rhymes, songs, posters, playlets and other devices, Mrs. James N. Downey, member of the Michigan State Safety Commission, interested thousands of children in keeping safe and happy.

A Favorable Referendum in Decatur—A referendum election in Decatur, Illinois, was carried favorably by a vote of 11,000 to 4,000. This means that in the future a budget of \$22,000 from two-thirds of a mill levy will be available in that city for the recreation program.

A Fortieth Annual Convention—For the first time in the history of the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, seven regional meetings were held throughout the state in place of one meeting for the entire state. The meetings were held on October 5th and 6th in New York City, Kingston, Glens Falls, Syracuse, Niagara Falls, Elmira and Utica. The central theme for all meetings was "The Child and His Community," and Point Nine of the Children's Charter was the text used.

At the regional meeting in New York City an afternoon session was given over to a symposium on the specific community influences that touch the child. These included movies, radio, playgrounds, youth organizations, library, church and music. At the end of the first day came the Congress dinner attended by teachers and parents,

Can an Advisory Board Help?

THE FOLLOWING significant developments have occurred in the work of the Division of Recreation, Department of Parks and Public Property, Cleveland, Ohio, as a result of the work of the Mayor's Advisory Board on Playgrounds and Recreation which has been in existence for more than a year:

1. The Commissioner of Recreation under the preceding administration was replaced by the temporary appointment of a more experienced man. The Board is aiming at an examination for the position of Commissioner open to non-residents.

2. The Board took an active part in placing all playground positions within a classified service. As a result, approximately 85% of the 1936 playground staff were protected by Civil Service.

3. Upon the Board's recommendation, a woman was appointed as Assistant Commissioner to organize and direct recreation for women and girls.

4. Fifteen new playground areas were improved and opened this summer.

5. The Board appeared at budget hearings, as a result of which a 50% increase was granted by the City Council for operating the Division of Recreation during 1936.

6. At the recommendation of the Board, the maintenance of all playgrounds under the control of the Department of Parks and Public Property will henceforth be maintained by the Division of Recreation. The Board is recommending that the maintenance of all recreation areas be handled by the Division of Recreation.

These improvements, as well as additional recommendations still to be submitted by the Board, were based upon the study of public recreation by the Cleveland Foundation.

Another interesting development in connection with the study and the publicity growing out of its publication has been the appointment, by ordinance, of a special recreation committee of the City Council.

many large groups of teacher associations being present. The second day of the Congress opened with round table discussions in parliamentary procedure, budgeting, publicity and program making. Emphasis was laid on the opportunities offered parent-teacher associations to cooperate with community agencies in juvenile protection.

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Developments in Bloomfield, New Jersey—The Bloomfield, New Jersey, symphony orchestra fostered by the Recreation Commission has 110 members; its chorus, 100. The budget has shown a steady growth from \$10,500 in 1929 to \$17,000 this year, plus an additional appropriation from the city of \$750 and \$200 from the High School Athletic Association. It is hoped that next year the budget will be \$20,000.

Regarding Tennis Courts—The United States Lawn Tennis Association has issued the reports of the Standard Court for Tournament Play Committee, which contain information on surfacing and other technical matters which will be of interest to recreation workers. Edward B. Moss, executive secretary of the association, at 120 Broadway, New York City, writes that a few copies of the reports are available at 50 cents a copy.

More Playgrounds Needed—According to the Monthly Bulletin of the Pennsylvania Department of Internal Affairs, which issues the bulletin in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Association of Planning Commissioners, more than 7,000 citi-



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zens in Lancaster have signed petitions requesting municipal authorities to purchase sites for playgrounds in various sections of the city. The petitions all urge the need for quick action to secure the property before it is built upon. A recent WPA survey reveals a scarcity of vacant lots suitable for playgrounds in most sections of the city.

Developments in Duluth, Minnesota — The tax rate in Duluth, Minnesota, has increased 2½ mills for 1937 and the assessed valuation of personal property has dropped a million and a half. In the city's budget increased allocations have been given to the police, fire, health, library, park and public works programs.

When Winter Dons Her Mantle White

(Continued from page 434)

their proper maintenance and supervision. When they have been laid out in the most suitable locations, according to snow conditions, terrain, exposure and accessibility, adequate publicity should

be given them for maximum public use and enjoyment.

Walter Prichard Eaton pointed out in the *New York Herald Tribune* of December 18, 1932, that "for a thoroughgoing development of winter sport interest in northeastern America, we need ski trails of varying difficulties, and we need them in public parks or reservations so they can be properly maintained and made easily accessible from all our cities." Skiers themselves are beginning to realize that winter recreational use of private land in the East is limited and uncertain, that they need the provision, regulation, maintenance and supervision of winter sports facilities by cooperating public agencies.

With proper planning of winter sports development, to prevent its undesirable intrusion within areas of natural beauty and wild life refuges where preservation is of paramount importance, we can provide plenty of opportunities for outdoor winter recreation. The increasing demand for winter sports facilities offers us the the opportunity to provide for the year-round recreational use of public parks in northern climates.

Why Not Puppets in the Home?

(Continued from page 437)

in an outpouring of new plays for puppets, especially plays with fresh themes and reflecting varied points of view!

To start a puppet "company" as a family hobby or a recreational or artistic activity, it is necessary only for some member of the group to have the interest and initiative to start the ball rolling. Isn't this an opportunity for the recreation department to stimulate a worthwhile family recreational activity which can be carried on within the home? It is a well-known fact that "puppet-mania" is catching, and interest in them should prove most irresistible in the informal atmosphere of the home. The little creatures of wood and cloth make good friends for a family, and they are provocative of more fun and laughter than can well be imagined until their acquaintance is made at first hand.

Where Music Flourishes

(Continued from page 438)

dictaphone; music was loaned to four different groups; newspaper clippings made; community singing accompanied at Lions' Club and led at

Exchange Club; eleven appointments were accepted by the organizer.

The outstanding new development during the past year was the Civic Opera. The combination which has been effected of the symphony orchestra, the choral groups and the soloists, has meant much to the musical life of the city. Outstanding productions of "Il Trovatore" and "Rigoletto" were given, and during the coming year "Pagliacci" and "Cavalleria Rusticana" will be presented.

One unique feature of the program is the musicians' hospitality dinner organized ten years ago. It is now a Fine Arts event held in cooperation with the Institute of Arts and Community Players. Its purpose is to welcome into the city all new leaders in the arts.

Additional Activities Urged

In spite of the unusual range of activities offered through the association and the breadth of the program, the association is constantly enlarging its scope. Additional activities recommended for the ensuing year include the following:

1. The development of the Welsh Eistedfod idea
2. Reorganization of the harmonica development
3. More summer musical activities
4. Development of some musical recreation for the Police Department, such as vocal quartets, valuable in radio safety programs
5. Masonic Male Chorus
6. Bands in all the industries
7. Junior Chamber of Commerce Male Chorus
8. Mixed choruses in the department stores
9. Greater musical stimulus among the foreign-born groups, culminating in a cosmopolitan "sing"
10. More family groups enjoying music together
11. More home music by various groups
12. More "barber shop" quartets
13. Service club quartets
14. Ukulele clubs throughout the city
15. Assistance in the organization of a Flint band director's club
16. Band conclave at Atwood Stadium
17. Sunday afternoon concert series (constructive appreciation)
18. Saginaw Valley Festival — choirs, bands, orchestras
19. Music groups at Berston and Haskell Field Houses
20. Constructive Radio Series.

A Foundation Believes in Play

THE W. K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION with headquarters in Battle Creek, Michigan, is devoted to furthering the health, happiness and well-being of children. During the past summer the Foundation recognized in three significant ways the importance of recreation in its home town. First of all, it began the work of installing swimming pools in the two junior high schools, assuming the cost of operation and maintenance. This is being done with the understanding that the pools will be operated evenings and during the summer in conjunction with the city recreation program.

As a second contribution the Foundation has purchased a two acre piece of property in a section of the city which a survey has shown to be the seat of most of the juvenile delinquency. The Exchange Club of Battle Creek has agreed to clear the property as a playground, and the Civic Recreation Association, the organization conducting the public city-wide recreation program in Battle Creek, will furnish the leadership.

As an additional gift to the city's recreation program, the Foundation has turned over to the Civic Recreation Association for use much of the time the fine recreation building which it erected some years ago and which contains a gymnasium, swimming pool, a large assembly room and smaller club rooms. The pool will be used by the high school during the day. The building will be the headquarters of the Scout activities area and the office of the Recreation Association will be moved there. The Foundation will assume the entire cost of maintenance of the building, the name of which has been changed from the Boys Club to the W. K. Kellogg Youth Building.

With these additional facilities, the splendid recreation program which has been developed during the past decade under the leadership of Arch Flannery will be able to meet the steadily increasing demands.

A Community Christmas

(Continued from page 441)

When December 24 came we still had a large supply of items on hand. Many were taken to near-by localities for distribution through their social workers. The remaining funds and gifts were turned over to the Salvation Army to store and to be used as a nucleus for the next year.

When school closed for the Christmas holidays and the work of the central committee was finish-

Have You Your Copies?

- We want to remind readers of RECREATION of the *National Physical Achievement Standards for Girls* published as a result of a nation-wide study and presenting directions and scoring tables for over fifty approved physical events for girls.

Physical educators, recreation workers, community directors, club leaders and all interested in physical activities for girls will find this material helpful.

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National Recreation Association
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New York City

ed, there was a unanimous feeling of happiness for having had a share in spreading Christmas cheer and for a community service that had been well done.

The Richmond Traveling Players

(Continued from page 442)

This was followed again by a season of one act plays, several of which were modernized revivals of pieces seen in the old Orpheum days, while others were original plays written for certain members of the group. One of the latter numbers met with such popular approval that it was given from one end of the city to the other and kept in the repertoire for one year. Even today requests frequently come in for another presentation of this little sketch. Among these plays was a tabloid version of Schiller's *Mary Stuart*, the "Grand Guignol" success, *Rosalie*, together with *Modesty*, the *Green Coat*, the *Boor*, and the *Marriage Proposal*, the latter four having held the boards at the Comedie Francaise at the turn of the century.

The 1933 season also saw the installation of Mr. Clay Hopper as permanent stage manager to the company. The former policy had been to have

a new manager for every production. The result was a marked improvement in the quality of all following performances.

Nineteen thirty-four saw a production of Ryann's *For the Soul of Rafael*, the tragedy of early California made so famous in the films by Clara Kimbal Young. This was followed by a revival at the Legion of Honor Palace Theater of Victor Hugo's romantic drama *Ruy Blas*, with Miss Virginia Thompson as Marrienne de Neuberg, the role made famous by the late Sarah Bernhardt. A chorus was now added under the direction of Mrs. Marie V. Foster, supervisor of music for the Recreation Commission, together with a ballet group directed by Miss Lydia Patzelt.

Arrangements were then made for a production of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, using all resources at the disposal of the group. The performance was originally intended to be held in the Sigmund Stern Grove, the beautiful outdoor amphitheater of the Recreation Commission, so the script was arranged accordingly. However, the cold weather set in unexpectedly early, so the play was given as a benefit performance at the San Francisco State College.

The performance was an unusual success and showed clearly the possibilities in adapting such plays to the needs of community or educational groups. There was a cast of sixteen principals, a chorus of thirty, a ballet of twelve and extras numbering twenty, to say nothing of the various assistants employed backstage. A far cry, this, from the struggling little group of four which managed to keep the Players in existence during the season of 1932. With the introduction of the Grieg incidental music, typical songs and Norwegian folk dances in the wedding scene, a very colorful production resulted. A striking feature was the unique set of masks used in the famous Troll King scene. These were all designed and executed in the studio of the Drama Department. Mr. Hopper's beautiful lighting effects, especially in the finale, evoked much comment.

Encouraged by the favor with which *Peer Gynt* was received, the Players next return to the Legion of Honor Theater with a revival of one of Victorein Sardou's greatest melodramas made famous by Sarah Bernhardt. A full new set of scenery and a skillfully executed wardrobe set off the efforts of the Players to the best advantage possible.

At the present time plans are under way for a production of *Faust* designed on a scale similar to that of *Peer Gynt*.

William D. Champlin

THE DEATH of William D. Champlin on November 1, 1936 removes one of the playground pioneers best known throughout the country. Mr. Champlin had been present at nearly all of the Recreation Congresses held since 1907. Many recreation executives had visited him in Philadelphia and had seen what he had accomplished in the laying out of playgrounds and in the planning of recreation buildings. Through all the years he had been persistent in persuading the citizens of Philadelphia as to the importance of the playground and recreation movement.

When the Playgrounds Association of Philadelphia was formed in 1908 William D. Champlin became executive secretary. Many remember the group of Philadelphia citizens appointed by the Mayor of Philadelphia in 1909 to travel from city to city to study what was being done in the playground movement. Among the leaders in Philadelphia at that time were Otto T. Mallery, Sophia Ross, William A. Stecher, Judge Staake.

After a thorough investigation of the playground work in other cities a Department of Recreation was established in Philadelphia in 1911 and William D. Champlin was named as the executive. In January, 1934 William D. Champlin retired on a city pension, but his interest in the recreation movement, local and national, did not cease. It had always been his chief concern.

Increasing America's Recreation Facilities

(Continued from page 450)

amateur organization of seven leagues in three states with about 1000 players, all under twenty-one years of age.

Butte, Montana, owns beautifully timbered mountain area of nine square miles, which is twenty-five minutes from the center of the city. It was developed into an excellent recreation park in a WPA project.

"Big Ed" Walsh, former star pitcher for the Chicago White Sox, conducts a baseball school in Connecticut under WPA auspices. In four months of this year he talked to 71,823 boys on baseball and sportsmanship, emphasizing the temptations and hazards of laziness, smoking, card playing and other bad habits. "I take great pride

Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles
of Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

The American Girl, November 1936

Outdoors in November, by Mary E. Pascoe
You Can Bind Books, by June Peters

The Record, (Girls' Friendly Society), December 1936

For Your Outdoor Christmas, by M. Estelle Burrill
Let's Make This a Singing Christmas
Lanterns for Christmas Carollers, by Lois K. Hartzell

Parents' Magazine, December 1936

Family Celebrations, by Leslie H. Allen
Toys for the Young Child, by Elizabeth B. Hurlock, Ph.D.

Parks and Recreation, November 1936

Park Consolidation in Chicago, by George T. Donoghue
Year Shows Great Advance in National and State Parks
A Picnic Grove in Maine, by Everett Spencer Henderson
Flint Outdoor Theaters, by J. D. McCallum
A Year with the Recreation Division—Chicago Park District
Fall Hiking in the Palisades Interstate Park

The American City, November 1936

City Playground Project Also Provides Flood Control
Civilizing Hallowe'en
An Iowa City Constructs a Rustic Stone Picnic Shelter House
The New Memorial Building in Hibbing
Lagoon Theater in Burnham Park, Chicago

Landscape Architecture, October 1936

America's Tropical Frontier, Everglades National Park, by Ernest F. Coe

Scholastic Coach, November 1936

Pupil Interest in Physical Education Activities, by C. O. Jackson and W. O. Alstrom

Parents' Magazine, November 1936

How to Choose Toys and Play Equipment, by Beatrice Gelber
Books for Boys and Girls, by Alice Dalgliesh
Family Fun, by Elizabeth King

The Camping Magazine, October 1936

Group Work in Camping, by Louis H. Blumenthal
Does Camping Educate for Leisure? by Matt Werner

The National Parent-Teacher Magazine, November 1936

Books to Grow On, by Lena Backsdale

Education, October 1936

A Co-operative Plan for Handicrafts in the United States, by Raymond E. Pippin
Creative Art in Chicago Schools, by Elizabeth Wells Robertson

The Camping Magazine, November 1936

Organized Camps in State Parks, by Julian Harris Salomon
Behavior Changes Resulting from a Camping Experience, by Walter L. Stone
The Story's the Thing—Some Tricks for the Story Teller, by Bernard S. Mason
The Group Work Process in Camping, by Louis H. Blumenthal

What Our Readers Say About School Activities

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(Signed)
LEROY E. COWLES, Dean
University of Utah

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(Signed)
E. V. CORE, Principal
Union High School
Union, West Virginia

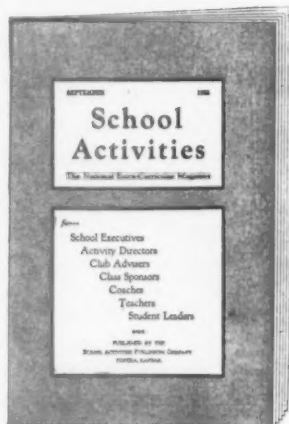
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PAMPHLETS

Annual Report of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners of Worcester, Mass., 1935

Good References on Physical Education and Recreation for Exceptional Children
Bibliography No. 11, Office of Education, Washington, D. C.

Good References on Elementary Education: Extracurricular Activities
Bibliography No. 42, Office of Education, Washington, D.C.

The Annual Report of the Bureau, Department of Public Welfare, Philadelphia, Pa., 1935

Annual Report of the American Municipal League, 1935-1936

Caribbean National Forest
Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

in my work," says Big Ed, "for I believe my tours of the state, stressing the necessity of good sportsmanship, bringing sportsmanship into the other activities in which the boys engage, is a part of a very definite move to uplift today's youth."

Robert Tyre Jones, Jr., better known as "Bobby," who for some years was the golf cham-

pion of the world, declared the golf course construction and improvement program of WPA to be a remarkable something which he said he had never hoped to see in the United States. "Every person," said Mr. Jones, "ought at least to have the chance to play golf. With all these new courses built and with all our new facilities, we are getting somewhere near that goal."

It has been conservatively estimated that somewhere in the neighborhood of 10,000,000 persons per month are actively participating in forms of recreation made possible by the WPA. This estimate, made from reports compiled from actual attendance records kept in many places and available to state directors of WPA, indicates strongly that the figure will be greatly increased with the completion of pending projects.

A Christmas Miracle

(Continued from page 453)

well also to include some unfamiliar carols for their own sakes and because they gave reason for rehearsals in the centers. After all, it was to introduce good singing into the centers themselves that the whole affair was planned. And even though the groups in some centers were small, the benign influence of this singing must have been felt by many other children who heard it, as well as by those in the groups.

After each group had learned the carols and the chorale, the city was divided into two districts with respect to the thirty-two centers, and a joint rehearsal of each district's groups was held. The only other bit of extraordinary travel that had to be arranged for the children was when they all gathered early on the evening of the festival, and all together had the only full rehearsal. The festival took place in the large beautiful auditorium of the University instead of at the Art Museum because the greatly reduced budget of the latter could not allow for the expense of extra guards and of renting chairs, but it did still have the standing of a fine civic affair.

It is perhaps too easy to write praisefully of the quality of the singing to be convincing. But anyone who knows how remarkably lovely the singing of children from nine to fourteen years of age can be, before their voices are changed by adolescence, must know that given such songs and such an occasion, the contrast between the festival singing and that commonly heard in the centers was indeed a miracle. But the best was yet to come!

The Aftermath

With very few exceptions the leaders wanted to go on with the groups, and the latter wanted also to go on. So after the Christmas vacation the groups, besides singing some folk songs and in some instances acting them out, started learning enough of the music of the opera, *Hansel and Gretel*, to come together again in the spring for another fine festive time. While the whole large chorus of groups sang all the music except the dialogue which in the opera is, of course, also sung, the latter was acted out fully, and with costumes and stage settings, by a selected cast of recreation center young people. But still more important, so far as the original purpose was concerned in each of several centers there was, before or after the big city performance, a neighborhood one employing only the center's own children.

There have been other festive times since then, but less and less emphasis has been put on having a big city affair, and more and more on simply making the most of each center's own resources and opportunities for musical expression and enjoyment. Ideally, the leaders would have continued to meet periodically in a sort of permanent seminar to share ideas and to study, discuss and demonstrate musical and other materials and plans for further enrichment of the center's activities. But even a miracle may be not quite perfect.

Surely the spirit of the little Child, which is in all of us, with its prizing of all that's really joyous and most lovable, brought blessing and was pleased. And that spirit, which is also the play spirit at its freest and best, can be with us at any time in the year. How badly we fail when it is not with our children!

Handicraft Arts in the Public Recreation Program

(Continued from page 454)

dren's classes, it is the immediate aim to give opportunity for self-expression and recreation, and to encourage individuals to become interested in crafts that are creative, useful and in good taste. These crafts include handmade things for the many needs of the home, which are once again very much the mode.

For ages women have employed their leisure in "stitchery," and today there is in it a fascination never lost. Women in our craft classes are weaving, crocheting, knitting, quilting, making hooked

(Continued on page 470)

Good Plays at Reduced Royalty

SECURING GOOD PLAYS at reduced royalty, one of the serious problems before recreation drama groups, gives promise of being solved if the plan worked out by the National Recreation Association in cooperation with two play publishers is eagerly supported this year.

The Association, on an experimental basis, has entered into a wholesale arrangement with the publishers permitting bona fide recreation groups to produce the list of plays chosen by the Association this year at greatly reduced royalties.

The three plays chosen, regular royalty and reduced royalty and publishers follow:

EXPRESSING WILLIE by Rachel Crothers. 6 m. 5 w. 2 ints. Willie Smith, a successful toothpaste manufacturer, is an inarticulate young man who yearns for expression. He invites a week-end party, including Frances Sylvester, a fashionable divorcee, to his home in the hope that his guests will help him conquer his inhibitions. In the end, Minnie Whitcomb, a former sweetheart, brings about the desired result and Willie's personality comes to the surface. Recommended for recreation groups and community players. Price, 75 cents.

Published by the Walter H. Baker Company. Regular royalty \$25. Reduced royalty through NRA plan, \$10.

MARY THE THIRD by Rachel Crothers. 5 m. 5 w. 2 ints. Mary's grandmother and mother have each married entirely for love. Mary is a modern young woman who decides to determine her marriage by considerations of economics and eugenics, but her new ideas yield to a romantic love and she finds herself following the other Marys. An amusing study of the changing viewpoints of successive generations toward marriage. An excellent vehicle for community and club groups. Price, 75 cents.

Published by the Walter H. Baker Company. Regular royalty \$25. Reduced royalty through NRA plan, \$10.

POLLY OF THE CIRCUS by Margaret Mayo. 8 m. 6 w. 2 children and extras. Simple interior and exterior sets. This fine play in its original run played more than three years and became a landmark in the theatre. Polly, a delightful circus rider, is injured in a fall and taken to the home of a bachelor minister. Polly falls in love with him but when she hears that the good church folk object she runs away. The minister, on learning the truth, resigns his pulpit and follows her. An ideal community theater play. Price, 75 cents.

Published by Longmans, Green and Company. Regular royalty \$25. Reduced royalty through NRA plan, \$5.

Plays must be produced before September 1,

1937. Orders should be sent directly to the publishers.

It is hoped that the success of the plan this year will make possible larger lists and further reduced royalties in future years.

Handicraft Arts in the Public Recreation Program

(Continued from page 469)

rugs and enjoying it all immensely! There is a revival of interest in handmade pewter and copper metals, much after the manner of the early goldsmiths, and these metal crafts are very popular in our classes, as is pottery, which has given unlimited possibilities for self-expression through molding, shaping and creating lovely objects. There is also intense interest in bookbinding, tooled leather crafts, reed work, raffia work, pine needle basketry, wood carving, batik, block printing, staining of glass, decorating plaster casts, soap carving, photo tinting, decorating gourds, crepe paper decorations and party favors, wood fibre flowers, china painting, and fabric painting.

All these art crafts are popular in our classes; each has its own delight. For each member of the class there is the fascination of achieving, of going from one minor triumph to another, learning something all the time, expressing self in the *making of things*.

The peak of genuine satisfaction is reached when these craft projects are proudly displayed at our annual handicraft arts and hobby exhibition. Last year the entire upper floor of our large swimming stadium was used for the thirty booths exhibiting all the crafts previously mentioned, as well as model boats, model aircrafts, handmade table games, stamp exhibit, nature study, home play, homemade Badminton equipment and camp crafts. We and our 12,000 visitors were especially delighted with the children's exhibit which showed fine creative ability.

Through our program we know that what a great many people crave is the pleasure of creating something themselves. The individual's possibilities are revealed to himself and lead on to exploration of greater possibilities. Even a little acquaintance with an art or craft opens new worlds, makes life richer, and puts new meaning in a thousand things. It gives a renewed appreciation of the part that imagination, creating, *making things*, play in happier living. We all, I am sure, agree with Santayana that "the value of art lies in making people happy." The handicraft

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arts make people happier and open up new avenues of self-expression — self-expression in imperishable forms and in values that are worth cherishing. Great opportunities for creative ingenuity, genuine satisfaction and lasting enjoyment for many people lie in the handicraft program.

Recreational Features of Parks

(Continued from page 458)

Mr. Taylor gave an interesting talk on the National Forests illustrated with beautiful colored photographic slides. He emphasized the fact that recreation was a by-product in the forest service, the importance of which was being increasingly forced on them. He divided recreation into active and passive. Passive he defined as the contemplation of natural beauty while the active included camping, picnicking, winter sports, fishing, bathing, hiking and horseback riding. He stressed the need of planning the location of camps, woods and buildings from the landscape beauty standpoint. The spoiling of shore lines by camps and cottages, the blotting out of vistas by tents, the loss of scenic beauty by making a road conform to strict highway principles, were to be deplored. He called the roads in such areas recreation highways and scenic routes and insisted that aesthetic pleasure was their first purpose.

Mr. Taylor stated that special problems were raised in connection with the use of trailers; the practice of leaving children alone in camps; the special difficulties of keeping primitive areas primitive; sanitary problems connected with the use of streams and lakes that form part of the water system of distant cities. He mentioned particularly the need of the development of a special type of children's playground for camp sites in these areas. He urged that park and landscape leaders should see that proper principles were used in planning bridges and other construction and in locating all buildings, woods and camps.

New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

The Beacon Handicraft Series

Issued by Boston University in cooperation with the Fellowcrafters Guild. The Beacon Press, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts.

SINCE 1930, Boston University has been offering an opportunity to its students and to teachers and social workers of surrounding towns to learn a selected number of creative handicrafts. Instruction in the different crafts is given by the teachers of the Fellowcrafters Guild which has now been affiliated with Boston University. These two agencies, in cooperation with the Beacon Press, are sponsoring *The Beacon Handicraft Series* on arts and crafts of which five have been published. These include *Metalcraft for Amateurs*, by Peter Manzoni; *Hand Loom Weaving for Amateurs*, by Kate Van Cleve; *Braiding and Knotting for Amateurs*, by Constantine A. Belash; *Leathercraft for Amateurs*, by Eleonore E. Bang; *Linoleum Block Printing for Amateurs*, by Charlotte D. Bone. In each book detailed directions are given and diagrams offered. They will be valuable additions to the library of the recreation worker. The price of each book is \$1.00.

The Real Log Cabin

By Chilson D. Aldrich. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.50.

IF YOU OFTEN wish that you might have a log cabin of your own, you are sure to find your dream cabin in this book written by a man who has devoted himself exclusively to designing and building log cabins from those of the simplest type to cabins of elaborate and expensive design. The book is far from being a mere handbook on the construction of cabins. It is delightfully written by a man who loves out-of-door life and is full of human interest.

The Girl Scout Diary 1937

Girl Scouts, Inc., New York. \$10.

THIS ATTRACTIVE publication is not only a diary but an encyclopedia containing an amazing amount of information regarding Girl Scout activities, arts and crafts, nature study and sundry miscellaneous subjects of interest to all wide-awake girls.

The Year 'Round Party Book

By William P. Young and Horace J. Gardner. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. \$1.00.

THE RED LETTER DAYS of every month are celebrated in the party programs outlined in this book. Complete directions are given for twenty-one parties from decorations to refreshments.

Nature Games

By William Gould Vinal ("Cap'n Bill"). W. F. Humphrey Press Inc., Geneva, New York. \$10.

MANY OF THE GAMES presented by Dr. Vinal—and there are almost a hundred of them—have been adapted from old games handed down from generation to generation. With a little ingenuity they may be modified for new games.

Handbook for Recreation Leaders

By Ella Gardner. Publication No. 231, Children's Bureau, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. \$15.

EVERY PLAY LEADER will want to secure for his library a copy of this 124 page booklet which is primarily a book of games of various types. Some suggestions are offered for musical and dramatic activities. The handbook is based on Miss Gardner's experience with recreational programs in rural areas and has been compiled in response to requests for help in planning programs and in selecting games and other recreational material for use in the home and with clubs and community groups. Classified indexes make the booklet readily usable.

The Nature Guides' Dictionary

By William Gould Vinal ("Cap'n Bill"). W. F. Humphrey Press Inc., Geneva, New York. \$10.

IT IS NOT MANY generations ago, Dr. Vinal points out, that everyone used nature materials for food, medicine, clothing and protection from storm. Materials for weaving baskets and mats, dyeing and designing came out of the environment. Today, however, the ability to supply the necessities of life from the natural environment is almost a lost art, and yet many plants and animal products might be useful to people of the trail and to members of camp communities in their arts and crafts. In preparing this dictionary, Dr. Vinal has drawn upon his own experience as a country boy and as a guide.

Puppetry, An Educational Adventure

By Virginia Murphy. Art Education Press, Inc., 424 Madison Avenue, New York. \$.60 postpaid.

HERE IS A FASCINATING book on puppetry giving the historical background of this ancient art, its educational values, and detailed information on materials, the construction of marionettes and of a stage. There are also suggestions for selecting and directing the play, and organizing the producing company. There are many illustrations and diagrams. The puppetry hobbyist will find this book invaluable.

The Kit (Puppet Making—Punch and Judy).

Edited by Lynn Rohrbough. Cooperative Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio. \$.25.

Puppets, how to make them, sources of information regarding them, suggestions for a Punch and Judy show with a dialogue, comprise the latest booklet of "The Kit."

A Sports Curriculum.

By Seward C. Staley, Ph.D. Bailey and Himes, Inc., Champaign, Illinois. \$1.00.

This book covers the twenty-eight different courses in physical education which are given at the University of Illinois. Interspersed with the information on the courses are lists of reference books on physical education and recreation, and quotations on sportsmanship and the values of sports and recreational activities.

The Field Hockey Guide.

Spalding 38R. American Sports Publishing Company, New York. \$.25.

The 1936 *Field Hockey Guide* prepared by the Hockey Committee of the American Physical Education Association includes the usual handy pocket rule book, information of the U. S. Field Hockey Association's committees and their services, clubs, officers and members, historical data of teams, tournaments and international conferences. These are especially valuable to the hockey enthusiast, enabling her to make congenial friends when she moves to a new locality and to keep abreast with developments in her hobby.

For the player and teacher there are various articles, including "Physical Fitness and Training," "Ball Control," and "The Play of My Opponent." A comprehensive hockey bibliography and a sample score sheet conclude the Guide.

The Health Program in Small Associations.

By Edith M. Gates. The Womans Press, New York. \$.65.

We give a place to this booklet in a page of reviews of publications on recreation because it contains much practical information for recreation workers on activities in their field, and an interesting discussion of principles involved. Two sections are devoted to recreation activities—one under the title "Physical Education Activities," the second under the heading "Recreation—An Education for Leisure." An excellent bibliography completes the booklet.

Parents and the Automobile.

Edited by Elizabeth J. Reisner, Harriet de Onis and Thalia M. Stolper. Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. \$.65.

A number of parents of children in the Horace Mann School and Lincoln School of New York City have been studying the relationship between parents and the adolescent children in respect to the automobile. Since automobile driving occupies so large a part of the leisure time of adolescents, some of the results of the symposium will be of general interest.

Youth Welfare in Philadelphia.

By Francis M. Wetherill. The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia. \$2.00.

A study of youth welfare in Philadelphia by Dr. Wetherill finds 75 institutions and 27 welfare agencies interested in the care of youth, with state and federal governments, national groups and other associations cooperating for the welfare of the adolescent. Dr. Wetherill indicates some of the problems presented by the work and accomplishments and needs, especially in the line of character building.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933 OF RECREATION, published monthly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1936.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
COUNTY OF NEW YORK. } ss.

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared H. S. Braucher, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of RECREATION, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

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Publisher: National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Editor: H. S. Braucher, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Managing Editor: Abbie Condit, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

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H. S. BRAUCHER.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of September, 1936.

[SEAL]

MIRIAM DOCHTERMANN,

Notary Public, Nassau County.

Nassau County Clerk's No. 276. Certificate Filed in New York County. Clerk's No. 60. Register's No. 8 D 35. My commission expires March 30, 1938.

Can You Answer These Questions?

- List ten characteristics of an adequate program of education for leisure. What type of person will be developed by an effective education for leisure?

See pages 427-430

- What facts are there to back up the statement that winter sports, particularly skiing, are growing in popularity? How may winter sports activities be classified? List the activities adapted for intensive-use areas. What are the three types of downhill ski trails?

See pages 431-434

- Mention some of the values of puppetry for the home. What is the expense involved in making home puppets? How may the talents of all members of the family be utilized? List eight sources of information on puppetry.

See pages 435-437

- Describe the activities of a community music association. What is involved in membership in such an organization?

See page 438

- How may New Year's celebrations and customs in many countries be woven into a New Year's party? Describe a New Year's custom popular in Belgium. In Russia.

See pages 439-440

- Outline one method used in supplying toys, clothing, food and fuel to needy families, with special reference to the way in which toys may be rehabilitated.

See page 441

- What are some of the advantages of a mass hike? Mention three favorable conditions under which such hikes may be undertaken as a regular activity. What precautions should be taken to preserve proper social attitudes?

See pages 445-447

- Through the work of WPA existing recreational facilities have been improved and many new facilities added. List some of the new facilities provided. How many new swimming pools have been constructed? Why have the construction and improvement of recreational facilities had such an important place in the program of WPA?

See pages 448-450

- What steps can be taken to counteract the effect of the wretched music to which many children are exposed in their out-of-school hours? How may Christmas music be utilized as a lead-up to a desirable community-wide program?

See pages 451-453

- Mention some of the important considerations in planning a program of arts and crafts for children. On what basis should projects be chosen? What should be the objectives in the handcraft program for adults?

See page 454

WHO WILL SIGN THIS CHECK?

NEW YORK <i>December 24, 1936.</i> No. 1	
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